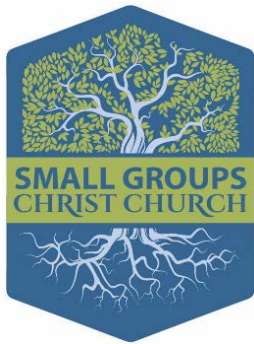


CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – The Week beginning February 16, 2025



Read Luke 6:17-26:

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Background:

Jesus teaches the people about what it means to be blessed. In Luke’s gospel, this is known as “The Sermon on the Plain.” Jesus’ disciples were “with a great multitude of people.” That is our church, a community of ordinary people, needing healing like the rest of humanity, sharing the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor and afflicted.

Talking Points:

- Why does Jesus come down and stand on “a level place” with the disciples in order to address the people?
- What do the Beatitudes—the series of blessings—teach us about being a disciple of Jesus?
- What lessons can we learn about the series of “woes” that Jesus lists?
- Would you have the courage to defend Jesus against those who would mock and criticize him (and you?)

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.