

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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First Thursday in Lent † February 25, 2021

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

May we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Take to heart that the Lord is God;

there is no other in heaven and earth.

The Lord will establish you as his holy people;

this very day we have become the people of God.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone;

bind these words in our hearts and souls.

READING: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

³²Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he

is one, and besides him there is no other"; ³³and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'

³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

May we look and perceive, listen and understand,
turn and be forgiven.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Be Thou My Vision"

PRAYERS

Let us pray to the Lord, the God in heaven above and on the earth beneath.

O Lord our God, show us your everlasting love,

that we may serve you from the obedience of our hearts.

Lead us in the way of your peace,

that our souls may be restored.

Fill our imaginations with the wonders of your creation,

that our minds may reflect your glory.

Guide us in the way of the cross,

that we might proclaim the strength of your love.

O Lord, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant in steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart. Hear us, O God, and keep teaching us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength. Keep these words in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorpost of your house.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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