

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023

For the Gathered –

Today, Jesus gives the famous –
“Sermon on the Mount.”

Somewhere in these 12 verses,
everyone finds themselves –
the poor, meek, merciful, hungry, pure,
sad, thirsty, peaceful, and persecuted.

Even in the most extreme circumstances,
God is there.
In laughter, or when all seems lost –
God is there.



Greeting – ELW 147

(Pastor) - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(All) - And also with you.

Kyrie – ELW 147

(Liturgist) – In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(ALL) – Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Gathering Song – O God of Mercy, God of Light - ELW 714 (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

O God of mercy, God of light,
in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight,
to live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all,
that our lost world might hear your call;
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!
We rest our hope in you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:
to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought
may work a work for you.

And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

Canticle of Praise – ELW 149

(Liturgist) – This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**(SING) Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free,
to be people of God. Power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor
and blessing, and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever, Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain,
has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord, we can't even begin to count all the blessings we have this day as we walk your path.
But we say, "Thank You," for what we know we already have, and all that will come our way.

Amen.

First Reading – Micah 6: 1-8

God invited Israel into a courtroom of law, with the earth and sky as witnesses. Israel is charged with turning a cold heart to the Lord, despite all his blessings.

Hear what the Lord says. Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

“O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell ^l in your tent?

Who may abide ^l on your mount?

Those who lead a blameless life and do ^l what is right,
who speak the truth ^l from their heart.

They do not slander with the tongue, nor do evil ^l to their friend.

They do not put curses ^l on their kin.

In their sight, the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^l fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their life, and do not take ^l back their word.

They do not give money in hope of false gain, nor take bribes to ^l hurt the just.

Those who do good things shall never ^l be cast down.

Epistle Reading – I Corinthians 1: 18-31

By worldly standards of power, the message of the cross makes no sense. Weakness, suffering, and rejection are the hallmarks of God’s great powers. This turns the message of the cross into wisdom and might for believers.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs, and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are the called - both Jews and Greeks - Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many were powerful. Not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world - things that are not - to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Gospel Announcement – Matthew 5: 1-12

(Assembly May Stand)

Acclamation – ELW 151

(ALL SING) - Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Sit)

Message - The Surprise

Hymn of the Day – Rise Up, O Saints of God - ELW 669 (Verses 1-4)

Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

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(Assembly may stand)

Apostles' Creed – ELW 105

(ALL)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, and was seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Sit

Prayers of Intercession

Response

(Liturgist) Hear us, O God.

(All) - Your mercy is great.



Offering and Prayer –

Let us pray.

As you have blessed us with your many gifts, let this offering be a blessing for our neighbors. And may others learn of your love, through the same love we show to them.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving – ELW 152

(PASTOR SAYS) - The Lord be with you.

(ALL SAY) - And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor's Preface and join their unending hymn -

Our Response – ELW 153

(ALL SING) - Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer – ELW 154

**(ALL) - 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.**

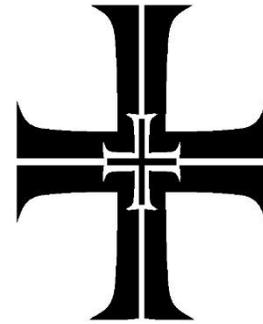
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Confession Song – “Lamb of God” – ELW 154

(ALL SING) –

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.**

We Eat and Drink

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(Assembly May Stand)

Sending Song – The Church's One Foundation - ELW 654 (Verses 1, 3 & 5)

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

(Sit)

Announcements

Dismissal –

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
(ALL) - Thanks be to God.

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