

January 29, 2023 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES RINGING OF BELL WELCOME

The people of God stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

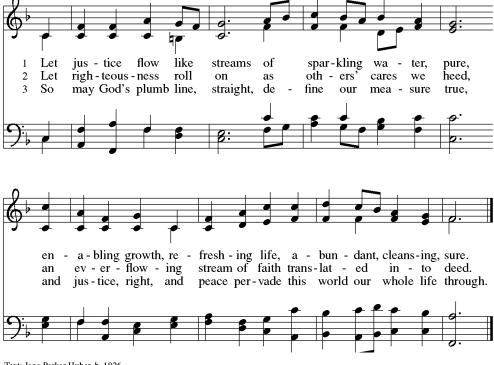
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KRYIE (ELW p. 184)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The people of God are seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

A reading from Micah.

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For 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. ⁵O 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."

⁶"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? ⁷Will 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?" ⁸He 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

Psalm 121 is a liturgy.

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

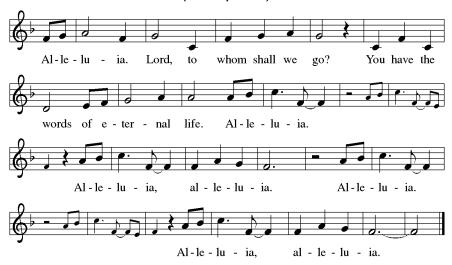
²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- ³ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people of God are seated.

SERMON

The people of God stand.

HYMN Blest Are They (ELW 728) See next page.



APOSTLES' CREED (ELW P. 105)

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 Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "Hear our prayer."

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people of God are seated.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online please visit our website (<u>www.wbbethany.org</u>) and click on the blue "Give Now" button on the home page. Thank you! The people of God stand as the offering is brought forward.

HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 184)



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

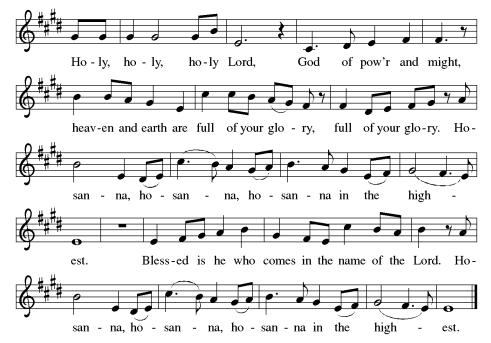
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

The people of God are seated.

COMMUNION

Communion today will be distributed in a continuous line. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION See next page.

Lamb of God (ELW p.191) Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have Lamb of God, of the mer-cy on us. you take a-way the sin world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God. To Be Your Presence (ELW 546) To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com pres - ence is To be your our mis - sion bold, to feed the blest, To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion to speak for We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, serve your pas-sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, be your heart of mer - cy to poor and shel-ter home-less cold, jus - tice, be your hands of to the bro-ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your peo - ple our call and choice, in this mis - sion we, ev er near. hold, right up al le lu ia! love ex pressed, church, re joice, Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S, Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442,3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. What Feast of Love (ELW 487) What feast of love of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en? What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en? What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en? What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en. Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this is This, this Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav - en. Oh, sing! How giv - en! and see and sweet the man - na taste of giv - en! Oh. and sing! The Word God see hear and Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God giv - en! Text: Delores Dufner, osв, b. 1939

Text: Defores Duffer, OSB, 0, 1939 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (ELW 551)



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
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SENDING

Go in peace! Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall.

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	February 5
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Jill Barnhart	Toni Dodds
Minister of Technology	Cole Crosthwaite	Paula Casper
	Tate Frantz	
Worship (Altar Care)	Samuelson Family	Paula Casper & Patsy Ernst





Many people donate countless hours in various ministries utilizing their unique skills and abilities. Hence, it is important for planning purposes to know who is volunteering for which ministries. Help us plan and manage this generosity by completing the online Time and Talent form, which can be accessed at the following link (https://tinyurl.com/yd9mxdcx) or by scanning the QR Code to the left.

- There is a section at the end of this form where you can leave any comments.
- Please submit a new form for each person who would like to volunteer.
- Please let a member of the Stewardship Team (Dave Poppen, Kent Kaufman, Stacy Beyer) know if you have any questions.





Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit:

www.wbbethany.org

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