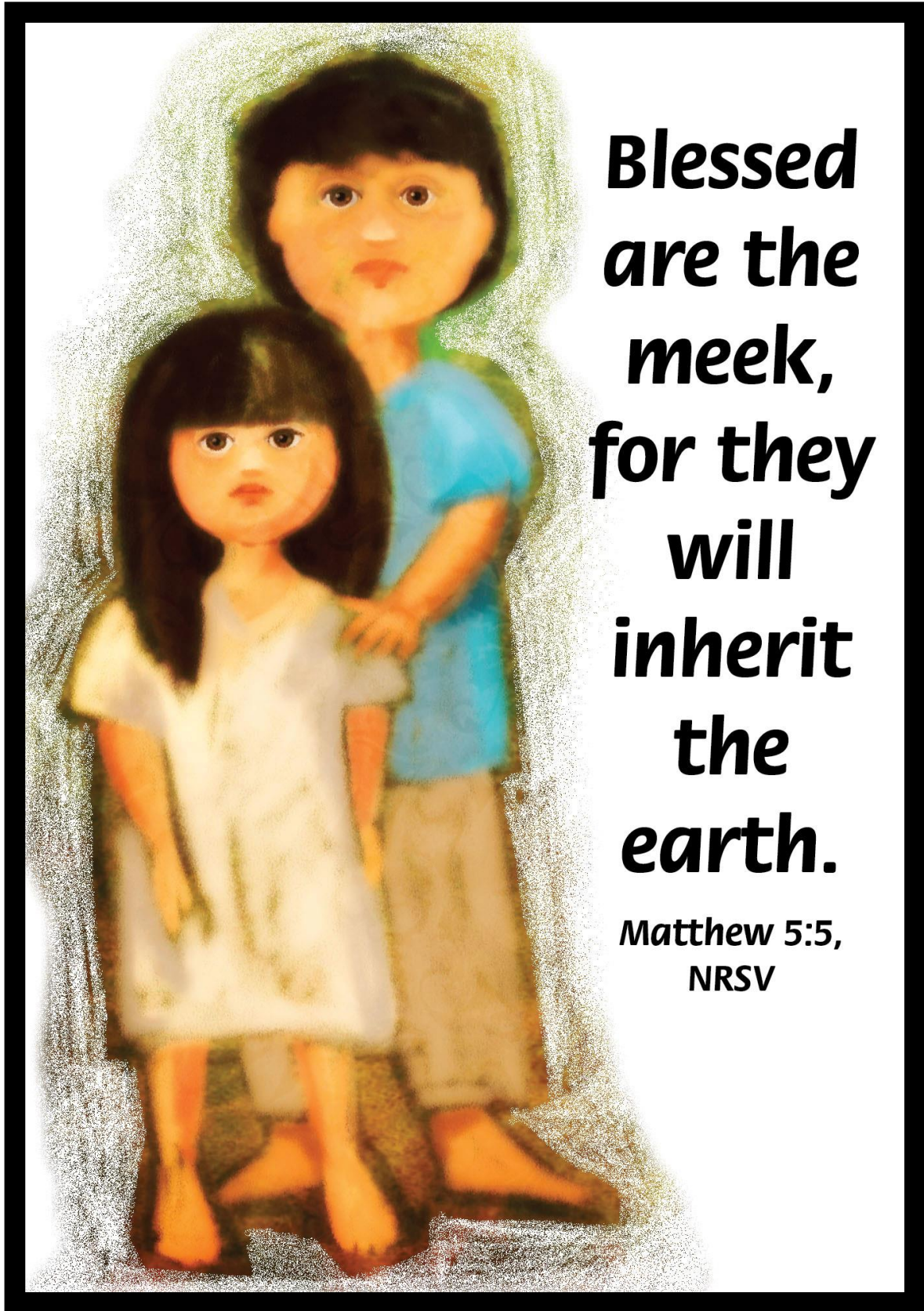


# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



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

**Matthew 5:5,  
NRSV**

**Epiphany 4**

**January 29, 2023**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email [pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org](mailto:pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org))

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email [pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org](mailto:pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org))

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 29, 2023**

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We joyfully welcome all who gather here this morning as we celebrate the life and the revealing of Jesus. A special welcome to all guests and visitors, please sign our guest register in the narthex. Jesus came into our world to live among God's people and invites each of us to come, see, and experience the gift of life he brings.

**COME AND SEE!**

## Hymn Sing

*Throughout the worship there will be opportunities to choose/sing favorite songs. We will sing two (2) verses of each chosen song. In most spots we will choose two different songs to sing – when asked, please name the song and song number if you know it.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green & Blue Hymnals.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \*CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us,  
redeems us, and calls us by name.

**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 have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

**\*EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.


**Amen.**

**\*OPENING SONG**


*“Blest Are They”*

(vs. 1-5) ELW # 728


Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they . . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they . . . . who seek peace; . . they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -




king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

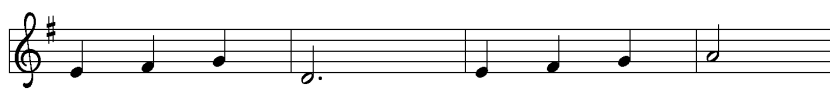


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they . . . . shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.


*Refrain*  
 All



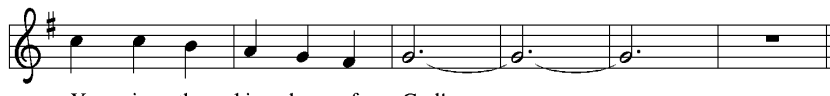
Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

**\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**\*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.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

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

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

**SCRIPTURE 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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."

<sup>6</sup>"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?

<sup>7</sup>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?"

<sup>8</sup>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.**

## SCRIPTURE 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.*

<sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

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

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>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.**

## \*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.**

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

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup>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 gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

Harlan Nyhus

## SONGS OF THE DAY

Choose two songs

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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 THE COMMUNITY**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY**

Choose two songs

**✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

**\*SENDING SONGS**

Choose two songs

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude**



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## Upside-Down Blessing

How do you know that you are blessed? Our consumer-driven culture primes us to believe blessedness is based on our bank accounts. Or perhaps we learn that we are blessed if we are in good health, or if our work is meaningful, or if our social or family lives are fulfilling. Social media hashtags depict blessing as the result of good fortune. And health, work, family, and social connection can all be good things! But the beatitudes turn our assumptions about blessedness on their head.

Jesus reminds us that instead, blessedness is our beginning. “Blessed” is our primary identity in God. We are loved and favored by God before we do anything to earn it, before the circumstances of our lives begin to define us. Our level of blessedness has nothing to do with us and everything to do with God’s abundant love and grace. This is true especially when it feels like we are anything but blessed.

We are loved, held, and brought near to God, even in our pain and sorrow and everything that makes us feel like we are less worthy, less loved, less important. In fact, it is in those places that God draws nearest to us, reminding us that we are loved and whole and worthy of blessing. Then everything we do flows from that identity of blessedness. We are freed to bless others—with our words, our actions, our whole lives. We are invited to engage the world through the upside-down lens of the kingdom of God. We are given new eyes to see God’s presence in this world—not just among the important, the powerful, the popular, and the loud, but among those the world would rather ignore, disregard, or shame.

Whenever the world pronounces condemnation, God declares, “Blessed.” Whenever the world excludes, God welcomes. Whenever the world scorns, mocks, or causes harm, God promises new life in the kingdom of heaven that is ever drawing near.