

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 29, 2023



**MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**“SHARING CHRIST, SERVING THE COMMUNITY”**  
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# Chosen

## As We Gather

Why do the Beatitudes resonate with us? Yes, we who follow Christ are poor in spirit, we hunger for righteousness, and we know some persecution; but so do others, those who follow other gods. The difference is that, at the deepest level, God has promised blessings while we experience all those human emotions and take what action we think best. Those blessings come to us by grace, simply because God has chosen us, without any merit or worthiness in us. We are not worthy, just as God's Old Testament people did not merit His attention, but we and they received it nonetheless. God has chosen to make us worthy by sending His Son in our place. In today's Readings, He explains what pleases Him. Only Christ lived the perfect life, but the Gospel certainly moves us to respond to God's choosing us, as best we can, in love and service.

## PREPARATION

Hymn

Softly and Tenderly

All

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing for you and for me;  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, Plead - ing for you and for me?  
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, Pass - ing from you and from me;  
4. Oh, for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, Prom - ised for you and for me!

See, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me.  
Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me?  
Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me.  
Though we have sinned, He has mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me.

Refrain

Come home, ———— come home, ———— You who are wea - ry, come home;

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked 'p' (piano) at the beginning and 'pp' (pianissimo) towards the end. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*1 Corinthians 1:18, 30*

- P** The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
- C** but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
  
- P** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
- C** whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us go to the throne of God's grace, confessing our sins and asking His mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
  
- P** We cannot repay God for our offenses, but He has given us His only Son to pay for every sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen. Thanks be to God.

## WORD

## Introit

*Psalms 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

**Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,\*  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;**  
but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf  
does not | wither.\***

**In all that he does, he | prospers.**

The wicked | are not so,\*  
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

## Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.
- C** **Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Kyrie

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **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.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 6:1–8*

- <sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:  
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.
- <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.
- <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
How 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 what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the 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 man, 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?

- Ⓘ This is the Word of the Lord.

## **C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle

*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly 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 the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Children’s Message

#### Verse

*Matthew 5:3*

**P** Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**C** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

#### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 5:1–12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

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

5" Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6" Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7" Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

9" Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hymn #425

Sermon

Offering

Offertory



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For those who mourn, [*including . . .*], that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
  
- P** For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ's having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## Hymn

### 10,000 Reasons

All

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**The sun comes up it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore – Forevermore!**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name;  
Worship Your holy name; Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.**

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**Serving Him this week as...**

Worship Leader	Pastor Daniel Vang
Elders	<b>Eric Baer</b> , Bruce Betts, Gary Kilbourne, Kyle Swan, Jim Rowe and Roger Zittel
Musician	Gospel Group
Reader	Gary Kilbourne, Bruce Betts, Eric Baer, Norma Ceccardi, Alex Vang, Kyle Swan, <b>Amy Swan</b> and Krista Hess
Ushers	
Altar Guild	Karen Fontaine

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