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**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 29, 2023**

**Introduction of the Day**

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.

Announcements

Prelude (8am) *“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”* -Dr. Albin C. Whitworth

(10:45am) *“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” -Terry Osman*

“*Brightest and Best” -Terry Osman*

*(St. John’s Hand Bell Choir)*

(Please stand)

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who makes all things new,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING *SONG*** *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!” ELW 873*

**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.**

**A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generatedKYRIE**

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Description automatically generated**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**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.**

**(Please be seated)**

**FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8**

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 a 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? (Continued)  
 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.**

A picture containing chart

Description automatically generated**Psalm Refrain**

Table

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**PSALM: Psalm 15**

1Lord, who may dwell in your **|** tabernacle?  
  Who may abide upon your **|** holy hill?  
 2**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**  
  **who speak the truth | from their heart;** R  
 3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil **|** to their friends;  
  they do not cast discredit up- **|** on a neighbor.  
 4**In 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 a- **|** gainst the innocent.  
  Those who do these things shall never be **|** overthrown. R

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

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.**

(Please stand)

**Gospel Acclamation**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

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.**

**Sermon**  Pastor Keilholtz

(Please stand)

***Hymn of the Day:*** *“Rise Up, O Saints of God” ELW 669*

**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 Church:**

**P:** Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**(Please be seated)**

**(10:45) ANTHEM*:*** "O Master, Let me Walk with Thee” -Gregory Hamilton

(Brenda Stoner, Flute)

***Communion Instructions****:* Please come forward for communion to receive a wafer and the wine. If you are in need of gluten-free wafers, please let the Pastors know when you come to receive. The cups can be disposed of in the trash cans.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Timeline

Description automatically generated**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Words of Institution**

**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; (Continued)**

**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.**

Timeline

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**Sharing of Holy Communion** *“Jesus, the Very Thought of You*” ELW 754

**“***Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” ELW 651*

**Prayer after Communion**

Holy One,

we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness, (Continued)

and journey humbly with you.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:**  *“To Be Your Presence” ELW 546*

**Sending** P: Grow in faith. Share God’s love. Serve others.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude*:*** *"Trumpet Tune in D-Major” -David N. Johnson*

**Worship Ministry Leaders**

**ALTAR GUILD :** Vicki Skonezney, Laura Keller

**FLOWER DELIVERY** : Kurt and Susan Minnich

**LECTOR :** (8 am) Christine Mulgrew (10:45) Mike Kadjeski

**Schedule of worship services:**

**Saturday: 6 pm**

**Sunday: 8 am**

**Sunday School: 9:15 am**

**Sunday: 10:45 am**

**Prayer Concerns or Needs:** If you have prayer concerns

or needs, please notify St. John's Prayer Chain by calling

the church office at (717)761-5121. "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ... and always keep praying for all the saints."

- Ephesians 6:18.

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| HOMEBOUND: | Peggy Paul |
| CHILDREN’S GARDEN: | Children’s Garden |
| ST JOHN'S MINISTRY: | Nurture Ministries |
| CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE: | Christ (Filey’s), Dillsburg |
| MILITARY: | Aaron Lytle |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| A picture containing whiteboard  Description automatically generated | Free Dinner—5—6:00pm  8th Grade Confirmation Class 6:15—7:30 pm  Bells—6:15—7 PM  Choir 7—8pm    Won’t you join us for all or part of each Wednesday night?  We have a place for you! |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Last evening at worship we welcomed Hallie Grace Smith to Gods fold through the waters of Baptism. Hallie is the daughter of Scott and Ashely Smith and the granddaughter of Dave and Terry Smith.**

**Youth Group Calendar Bulletin**

**February 12, 2023**

Youth Group meeting in the Lounge

Middle School from 4-5pm

Dinner all together 5-6pm

High School from 6-7pm

**February 25, 2023**

Open Mic night at St. Matthews York

Do you have a song or a talent you want to share? Meet up with other youth in our synod for an open mic night hosted by the youth of St. Matthew York. All ages are welcome!

Drivers needed.

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**Whoopie pie orders can be picked up on February 8th. Please come to Wednesday dinner and get your whoopie pies!**

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Description automatically generatedLEAD PASTOR – The Rev Sarah M Keilholtz**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR – The Rev Elizabeth P. Eckman**

**PASTOR EMERITUS –The Rev Michael L Seifried**

**SEMINARIAN – Bethany Ketchem**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC – Thomas A Notestine**

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St. John's Lutheran Church is located on the unceded Indigenous land of the Susquehannock/Conestoga people and all our indigenous siblings who call this home. We have a responsibility to honor these connections and, as these words of acknowledgement are read, we strive to understand our place within the past, present, and future of this land by reflecting on our relationships with all whom we share the land.