

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD
WE ARE CALLED TO SEEK,
SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



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THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 30, 2005

8:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

What does the Lord ask of us? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. These are simple words from today's first reading that, nonetheless, remain a challenge for anyone who recognizes the injustice and suffering that mark and mar much of human existence. In the gospel reading, Jesus teaches his disciples a way of seeing those who are blessed in God's sight: the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. These are the people to whom Jesus has constant recourse in his ministry. How does this congregation serve them?

January 30, 2005

8:30 a.m. Worship

Jesus-style Peacemaking

Teach us, Jesus, about what it means to be seen as blessed in your eyes. We so often imagine the opposite. Don't we admire the rich in spirit? The comfortable? The confident? The secure?

How would we frame the peacemakers Jesus calls blessed? We might imagine them to be the people who walk gently through life, navigating complex personal and organizational relationships without creating a fuss, leaving everyone happy in their wake. Would these be the type Jesus calls "children of God"?

Probably not. Jesus himself was hardly a lukewarm presence in his world. It is true that he healed many, and no doubt kissed a few babies in his day. But he also flipped tables in the temple and publicly chastised the religious leaders of his time. He was not above using a bit of sarcasm to make a point, and he tended to hang around with people of questionable reputation. He openly challenged the prevailing piety of his tradition.

Jesus' kind of peacemaker focuses more on justice and less on placating powerful people or persistent tradition. Jesus' kind of peacemaker takes into account the needs of all people, not just the ruling majority. Jesus' kind of peacemaker has a vision of a world that reflects God's mercy and God's justice for the whole creation. And, like Jesus, this kind of peacemaker is committed to a deep and lasting peace, even if it is very costly.

Can we find the courage to be such a peacemaker? Could we risk reputation, confidence, security, or comfort for the sake of the good news of God's love for all? When we are full of the Spirit, when we are at our faithful best, we will. And when we fall short, as we will, we can trust that Jesus will welcome us all the same, forgiven and blessed.

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We encourage worshippers to read the introductions to the Readings of the Day in preparation for listening to the Word of God. Thank you.

** Stand if you are able.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

by Marty Haugen

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (Messiter; arr. Marilyn Ham)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (spoken)

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us draw near to God in humility and confidence, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The boundless riches of Christ are the gift of God's grace to all people. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING

** HYMN 147 (purple songbook)

We Are Called

(The text for the refrain of this song comes from the beautiful words of Micah in our first reading today.)

** GREETING (spoken)

The grace, the wisdom, and the power of almighty God be with you all.

And also with you.

** KYRIE (sung)

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people, here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (to Refrain)

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff is labeled "Assistant:" and contains the melody for the words "Help, save and de - fend us, O". The second staff is labeled "Congregation:" and contains the melody for the words "God. A - men.".

**** RESPONSIVE PRAYER (spoken)**

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on those who are sick, dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament, that we may bear your light to all the world.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (sung)

The image shows a single staff of musical notation. The first part is labeled "Presider:" and the second part is labeled "Congregation:". The melody is for the words "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.".

Let us pray.

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us.

Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF PRAYERS / Collecting of Gold / Green Cards

Pastor Prochaska

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Prochaska

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

The first reading is from Micah, chapter 6.

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. Acting first as plaintiff, God charges that though the Lord has provided constant care for the people, they have not responded appropriately. Acting as judge, God indicts Israel for bringing burnt offerings instead of justice and mercy.

Hear 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.

³O 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.”

⁶With 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? (NRSV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. (spoken)

HYMN 85 (purple songbook)

Let Justice Roll Like a River

The choir will lead the verses. Please sing the refrain,
and join in on the verses if you wish.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The second reading is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

In the city of Corinth, many Christians prided themselves on their sophistication and learning. Paul reminds them that God identifies with what is considered foolish, weak, and despised. This message is the wisdom of the cross.

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. 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.” (NRSV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. (spoken)

**** GOSPEL VERSE (sung)**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

**** GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by describing God's care for those who are blessed in the reign of God.

When 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." (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God. (spoken)

MUSIC

Blessed Are You

Chancel Choir

SERMON

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Pastor Prochaska

**** HYMN** 345 LBW (green hymnal) (vs. 1,2,3)

How Sweet the Sound of Jesus' Name

**** APOSTLES' CREED** (spoken)

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is 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.**

**** PRAYERS** (spoken)

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns. The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.

Let us pray that the dawn from on high will shine upon the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray: **Hear us, God of light.**

Hear all our prayers, gracious God, and receive them in the name of the Word made flesh, your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

**** PEACE** (spoken)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.

OFFERTORY

O, God Our Help in Ages Past

(arr. by McChesney)

**** OFFERTORY PRAYER** (spoken)


Let us pray.

God of glory,

with great joy we worship you and lay before you these gifts, which you have first given us. Let our lives serve you only, and lead us always to our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, the bright and morning star. Amen.


**** GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)**

Presider: *Congregation:*




The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is




right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY (spoken by the Pastor)


It is our duty and delight... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY (sung)


Congregation:




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly are you, God of pow - er and




might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est!

Pastor continues to pray... for as often... until he comes.

Congregation:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.

Christ will come, come a - gain. (sung once)

Pastor continues to pray... remembering his command... even as we cry:

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. (sung once)

Pastor continues to pray... send now we pray... your whole creation.

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. (sung once)

Pastor continues to pray... this we pray... our Savior and our friend.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. (sung)

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the

u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is

yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

**** LORD'S PRAYER** (spoken) (Personal option - holding hands)
 Made bold by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:
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.

**** INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (spoken)
 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Amen.

**** LAMB OF GOD** (sung as communion assistants come forward)

Congregation:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION -- Receiving the Lord's tangible presence

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: **Amen.**

We invite everyone to come to the Communion Rail and kneel if you are able. Children who have not been instructed are encouraged to join their family for a blessing. The Pastor or Communion Assistant will place the communion wafer in the communicant's "cupped hands". Choice of chalice with wine or individual glasses with wine or apple juice are available. Communicants desiring apple juice will need to "gesture" to the innermost circle of glasses in the communion tray where glasses of apple juice are available. The Communion Assistant will hand you the proper small communion cup. After receiving Holy Communion and private prayer at the Altar we encourage communicants to return to their pew for additional prayer, meditation or participation in singing the communion hymns. God bless you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

705 WOV (blue hymnal)

As the Grains of Wheat

(This song has often been sung at offertory, but as we sing it today,

may we appreciate the beautiful meaning these words have for Holy Communion.)

764 WOV (blue hymnal)

Blest are They

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (spoken)

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION SONG

46 (purple songbook)

Go in Peace and serve the Lord

SENDING

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

- * Brief Announcements
- * Birthdays & Anniversaries
- * Joys & Concerns
- * Special Matters

** **BLESSING** (spoken)

God's blessing be with you, Christ's + peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

** **HYMN** 526 LBW (green hymnal)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

DISMISSAL (spoken)

Go in peace. Be light for the world.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Sicilian Mariners"

(Alfred Fedak)

This Week's Commerations

Wednesday, February 2

The Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Thursday, February 3

Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

Saturday, February 5

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

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O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Praise & Thanksgiving to God For
The people and friends of Good Shepherd
Cathy & Dan Smith, missionaries in Tanzania
Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA, Chicago
Bishop Callon W. Hallaway Jr., Bishop Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, Columbus
Companion Synods: East of Lake Victoria Diocese, Tanzania, East Africa
and Evangelical Church of Mecklenburg, Germany

GOD'S PRESENCE & STRENGTH FOR

Milan Filcik
Hazel Reel
Dick Caton
Ruth Lackey
Hannah Pressnell & Captive Free West Lakes Team
Jason Rodes, who is serving in Iraq
Tami Miozzi
Darren
Lygia Harrison
Roberta, friend of Bill Fahle
Bobbie Sanders, friend of Scott Bieller
Ferne Neeb
Tsunami Relief
Ted
Betty
Carol Rempe
Anne Moss
David Curry
Anne
Quintos Koth – brother-in-law of Al Sessler

Beth Anne
Rick
Donna Berkeley – home after surgery
Dorothy Flora, on the death of her daughter, Sharon
Scheckelhoff, on 1/18
Mary Thieman
Stephanie, friend of Debbie DeVilbiss, who husband
died suddenly
Charlotte Nelson – who has cancer
Christy
Vickie – whose mother died
Sharon
Bernie
Ron and Sue
Sarah
Sarah & Michael – who are relocating
Ann Mess – who had a heart attack, Bambi Higgins
mother-in-law
Sylvia Bieller, on the death of her Grandmother

January 30, 2005 – The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Prayers Received January 23, 2005 – The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Please take this home and use it daily to remember in prayer
those who are near and dear to the Good Shepherd Community of Faith

Please email Sheila or Jeff Stutrud with your prayer requests at prayers@goodshepherdkettering.com