

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
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2005
5:30 P.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 29, 2005

5:30 pm 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.

PRELUDE

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

WELCOME

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 hymnal)

We are Called Purple

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

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Setting by Marty Haugen

1. SERVICE OF LIGHT

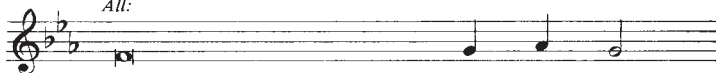
Procession

Leader:



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

and the day is almost over.

Leader:

Let your light scatter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your people here. —

Evening Hymn

All: a tempo

1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry

glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle

sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
 free and make us whole. _____
 on to end - less day. _____

Evening Thanksgiving



May God be with you all, and al - so with you;



Let us sing our thanks to — God,



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRAYER (sung)

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

Amen.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken)**

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.

WORD

PSALMODY (sung)

Psalm 141

All:

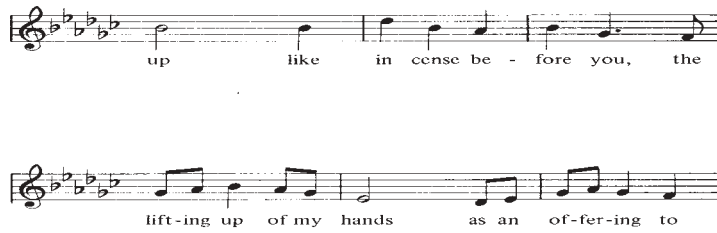


Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Cantor and Congregation (Chancel choir sings echo):



O God, I call to you, come to me
now; O hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise



up like in cense be - fore you, the
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to



you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



deep in my heart may the light of your love be



burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise



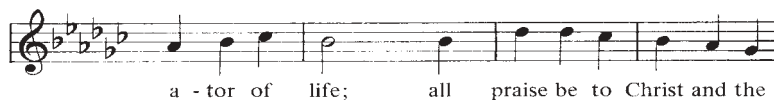
up like in - cense be - fore you, the



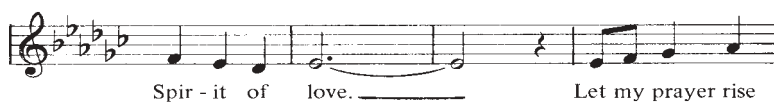
lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to



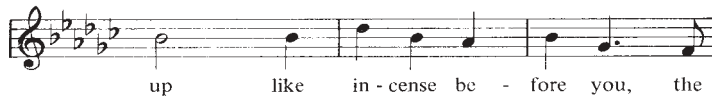
you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-



a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the



Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise



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."

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? (NRSV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 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.

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (spoken)
Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)

**** HOLY 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:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

¹¹Blessed 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.

SERMON

Pastor Prochaska

**** HYMN** 345 LBW (green hymnal)(vs. 1,2,3) *How Sweet the Sound of Jesus' Name*

**** THE PRAYERS** (spoken)

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.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**** PEACE** (sharing together the Peace of the Lord.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY

(Please place your offering in the offering basket located on the shelf in the Narthex. Thank you.)

** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Please gather around the Communion Rail with your bulletin and green hymnal.)
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 him thanks and praise.

Pastor Prays...

** LORD'S PRAYER (spoken) (personal option - holding hands)

Let us 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.

HOLY COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord's Tangible Presence

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

** COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace. **Amen**.

** FINAL BLESSING (sung)

The image shows musical notation for the Final Blessing. It consists of three staves of music in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 2/4 time signature. The first staff is for the Leader and All, with the lyrics "Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you." The second staff is for the Presider, with the lyrics "May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may".

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the
 Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for
 all of our days. *Amen.*

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

** **HYMN** 526 LBW (green hymnal) *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

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

POSTLUDE *He leadeth me* (Bradbury; arr. by Unfried)

This week's commemorations

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	Beth Anne
Hazel Reel	Rick
Dick Caton	Donna Berkeley – home after surgery
Ruth Lackey	Dorothy Flora, on the death of her daughter, Sharon Scheckelhoff, on 1/18
Hannah Pressnell & Captive Free West Lakes Team	Mary Thieman
Jason Rodes, who is serving in Iraq	Stephanie, friend of Debbie DeVilbiss, who husband died suddenly
Tami Miozzi	Charlotte Nelson – who has cancer
Darren	Christy
Lygia Harrison	Vickie – whose mother died
Roberta, friend of Bill Fahle	Sharon
Bobbie Sanders, friend of Scott Bieller	Bernie
Ferne Neeb	Ron and Sue
Tsunami Relief	Sarah
Ted	Sarah & Michael – who are relocating
Betty	Ann Mess – who had a heart attack, Bambi Higgins mother-in-law
Carol Rempe	Sylvia Bieller, on the death of her Grandmother
Anne Moss	
David Curry	
Anne	
Quintos Koth – brother-in-law of Al Sessler	

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