



# **Sunday, January 29, 2023**

## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Introduction**

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.

# Gathering Song..... "Here I Am to Worship"

## VERSE



1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness,  
 2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed,



o - pened my eyes, let me see. Beau - ty that made this  
 glo - rious in heav - en a - bove. Hum - bly You came to the



heart a - dore You, hope of a life spent with You.  
 earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came poor.

## § CHORUS



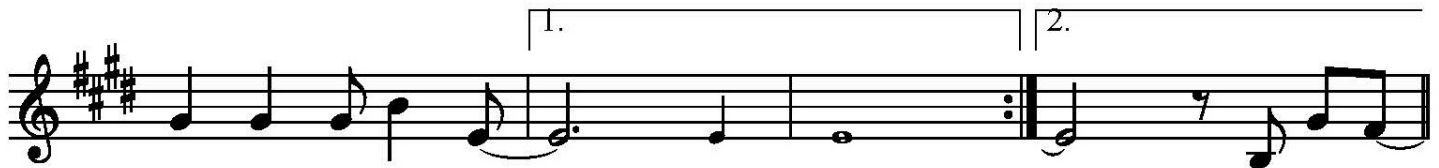
So, here I am to wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to



say that You're my God. And You're al - to - geth - er



love - ly, al - to - geth - er wor - thy, al - to - geth - er



won - der - ful to me. And I'll nev -

**BRIDGE**

- er know \_ how much \_ it cost \_ to see \_ my sin \_ up - on \_

\_ that cross. \_ And I'll nev - \_ that cross. \_ So, here I am to

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## Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## **First 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.*

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 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. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 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. 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." "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? 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?" 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?

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **Second 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.*

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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? 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the

power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming 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. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

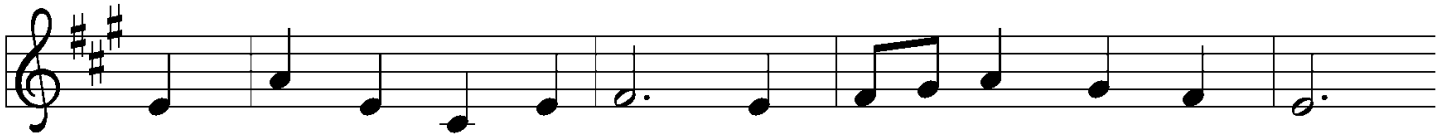
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

## Sermon Hymn..... "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Furness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## The 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 power of 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 Intercession

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

*A brief silence.*

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need (*especially Mary Ann Don, Barbara, Kristy, Charlie, Christi, Larry, Sue, Michael, Jenna, Joe, Dave, Joy, Vicki, Francisco, Tyler, Norm, Penny, Michael, Hadlee, Henry, Ruth, Sarah, Gloria, Joan, Lisa, Sumi, Celine, Jim, Michael, Darcie, Michael, Gavin and the People of Ukraine*). Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place (*especially Barbara, Katy, Lowell, Nancy and Donald*). Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.  
**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

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

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,  
**Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
    our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
    broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
    Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
    Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
    and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
    This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
    shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
    Do this for the remembrance of me.



## **The 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; 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**

Come and taste the joy of God!

## **Distribution**

*We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, 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 Song..... "You Are My All in All"

## VERSE



1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I  
2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Raising a - gain I bless Your

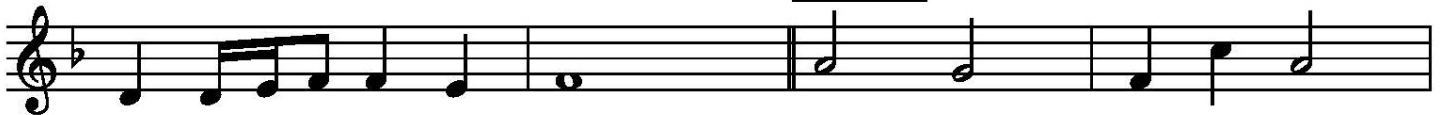


seek. You are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_  
name; You are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_



Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a  
When I fall down, You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my

## CHORUS



fool. You are my all in all. Je - sus, Lamb of God,  
cup; You are my all in all.



wor - thy is Your name! \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus,



Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name!

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**