



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday--9:00am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Readers: Shannon Bruhns

Sound: Al Skellenger

Live Stream: Brad Evenson

Acolytes: Gavin Paton

Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson

Communion Servers: Cora, Adam & Jen Sauer, Jon & Becky Helgeson

Altar Guild for January: Joan Kloster, Janet Swenson

Worship Coordinator: Shannon Bruhns

The Live Stream Broadcast is given by Members of Salem.

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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

PRELUDE

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

Beloved, 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.

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.**

We stand for the gathering hymn

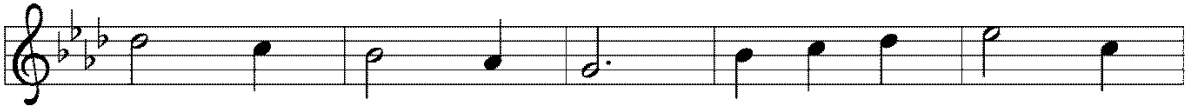
GATHERING HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Light

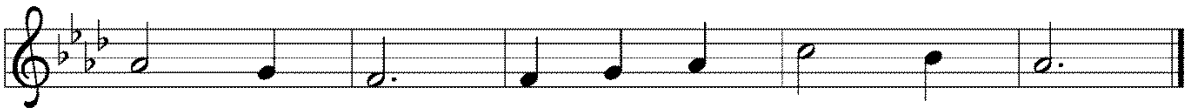
ELW #714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jesus Blesses the People

Whirl Story Bible p.218

WORD

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? 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?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW #717



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

SECOND READNG

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."

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

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.

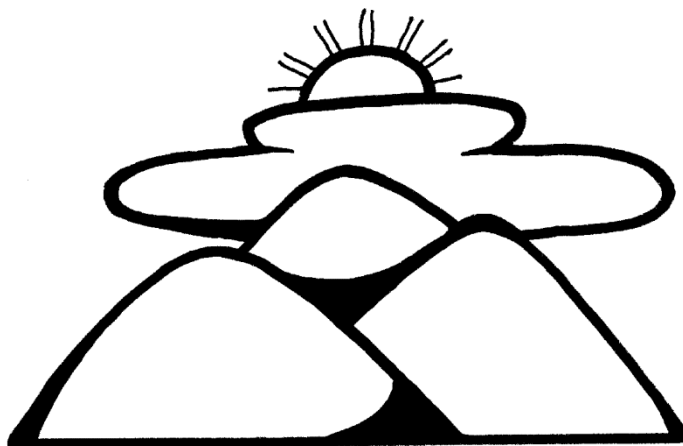
⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW #651



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain

We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 INTERCESSION

We will be seated for the prayers.

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. Merciful God, **receive 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. Merciful God, **receive 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. Merciful God, **receive 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. Merciful God, **receive 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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayers.

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

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING**MUSICAL 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.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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 our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Amen.

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

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, and journey humbly with you.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make

us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior

and Lord. **Amen.**

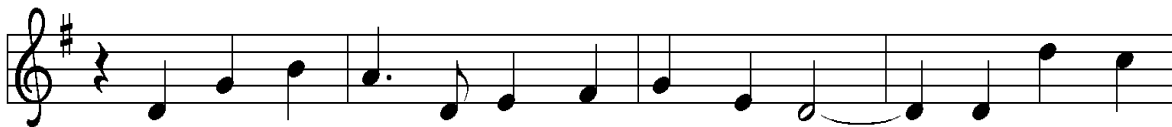
SENDING

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



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
 2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
 3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
 poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
 all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
 peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
 right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
 love ex - pressed,
 church, re - joice,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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