

**BLESSED ARE THE  
PURE OF HEART**



**FOR THEY  
SHALL SEE GOD.**

**The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 29, 2023**

**9:00am**

**Holy Communion**

*The Teaching of Christ: Beatitudes*

## **PRAYER CARD**

If you have a Prayer Request, use the YELLOW card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

## **ASSISTANCE**

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper?  
(Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free rice wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.

## **GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(**P:** pastor    **A:** assistant;    **C:** congregation)

*All who are able, stand*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

*The minister addresses the congregation.*

**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.

**C: Amen**

**HYMN: “God of Our Life, All-Glorious Lord” LBW 270**

*(green book)*

**God of our life, all-glorious Lord,  
Be now and evermore adored!  
Into the o’pning of this day  
Bring grace and love and peace, we pray.**

**Make clear our path, that we may see  
Where we must walk to be with thee  
And ever listen for thy voice,  
That we may make thy way our choice.**

**Give us thy help in ev-ry task,  
Nor let us fail of thee to ask  
For grace in speech, for love in deed,  
From wrongful actions to be freed.**

**At even-tide then will we raise  
A grateful heart in songs of praise,  
And worship thee and thy dear Son  
With God the Spirit, ever one.**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you

**HYMN OF PRAISE**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



*All sit*

## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON: Micah 6:1-8, The offering of justice, kindness, humility**

Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“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? <sup>7</sup>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?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, 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?

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **PSALM 15**

*The psalm is read together by the pastor and congregation*

**O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?**

**Who shall dwell on your holy hill?**

**He who walks blamelessly and does what is right  
and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor,  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the LORD;  
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;  
who does not put out his money at interest  
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things shall never be moved.**

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, *Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God*

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>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? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>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; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

*All who are able, stand*

### VERSE

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12 The Teaching of Christ: Beatitudes**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*All sit*

*After the Children’s Message, PRAYER CARDS can be handed towards the center aisle and given to an usher.*

## **SERMON**

*All who are able, stand*

**HYMN: “Jesus, the Very Thought of You” LBW 316**

**Jesus, the very thought of you Fills us with sweet delight;  
But sweeter far your face to view And rest within your light.**

**No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mind recall  
A sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!**



**O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
How kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!**

**O Jesus, be our joy today; Help us to prize your love;  
Grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home above."**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**P:** We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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 AND INTERCESSIONS**

**P:** Guided by the brilliant light of Christ, let us pray for the church and all who need the revealing love of God.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A:** Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** Into your merciful hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray; through the Light of the world, your Son, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

## **GREETING OF PEACE**

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

*All sit*

## **THE EUCHARIST**

*The OFFERING is brought forward as the Lord's table is prepared.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*All who are able, stand*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san -na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation  
the plants and animals, the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing  
his body given up, and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the people of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

*All sit*

### AGNUS DEI

**C** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### THE DISTRIBUTION

*After all have returned to their places, the minister continues.*

*All who are able, stand*

**P:** Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



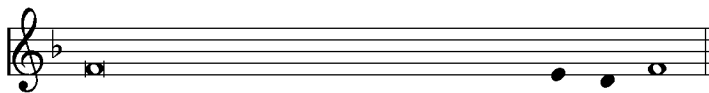
shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A:** Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen

## BLESSING



**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



**C:** A - men

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN: “God of Grace and God of Glory” LBW 415 (*green book*)**

**God of grace and God of glory  
On your people pour your pow’r;  
Crown your ancient Church’s story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour  
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! The hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days**

**Cure your children’s warring madness,  
Bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,  
Lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation  
To the evil we deplore;  
Let the gift of your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore,  
Serving you whom we adore.**

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

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