

Faith



*Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ*
Sunday, January 29, 2023
The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

COMMUNION ~ We gather at God's table. We'll be having communion today so grab bread and wine or juice. **God is present wherever we are!**

OFFERING ~ Thank you for your generous giving to God's work here. Our website's EGiving tab for electronic giving @www.faithlutheransouthbeloit.org or click the DONATE button on our Facebook page.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *A brief silence.* 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.**

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 1st chapter.

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."

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

~ Message ~ Pastor JoAnna Patterson

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

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 (especially). 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 (especially). Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY VIDEO

"Be One" by Natalie Grant

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~ We invite you to gather bread (or crackers) and wine (or juice) and bring them to the table.

DIALOG

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

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 to remember 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 to remember 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.

~ COMMUNION ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please prayers for all of our friends & families: George, Nan, Harriet, Don, Viola, Vivian, Carol, Anne, Charlie, Sherry, Maripat, Kyleigh Williams & family, Cori Cliffe, Sue Boyette, Gary, Patti, Bobby Shockley, Debi, Terry, Cindi, Kaci, Janie, Terry, Allen, Tina, Doug, Tammy, Steve, Tallen, Brad, Maryellen, Tina, Tracy, Ann, Beth, Sue, Irene, Steve, Connie, Sandi, Betty, Nancy, Ted, Kim, Telma, Lee, Amy, Ed, Joe, Dorothy, Janet, Becky, Darrell, John, Beth, Mason, Donna, Craig, James & Angie, Robert, Brayden, Laurray, our shut-ins: Bill Schultz and Evelyn Stafford, the homeless, unemployed, & those who are alone or who are abused. Bless all of our military families. We pray for peace in the world. Pray also for those who are out in this extreme weather.