

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 2026
10:30 a.m.

THE BEATITUDES

*“Rejoice
and be glad,
for your reward
is great in
heaven.”*

Matthew 5:12, ESV



“Christ- Students- Community Coming Together”
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778
www.martinlutherchapel.org

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 peacemaker. These are the people to whom Jesus has constant recourse in his ministry. How does this congregation serve them?

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

HYMN "Father Welcomes" LSB 605

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil-dren To His fam - 'ly
through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,
Life for - ev - er has been won.
1 Lit - tle chil-dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly
is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a - gain.
Live in the peace of God.

Text: Robin Mann, b. 1949
Tune: Robin Mann, b. 1949

FATHER WELCOMES
Irregular meter

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.**

BAPTISM SONG**"You Have Put on Christ"**

You have put on Christ, in him you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Gal 3:27, International Commission on English in the Liturgy

Music: Howard Hughes, b. 1930

Text © 1969, music © 1977 ICEL

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST
irregular

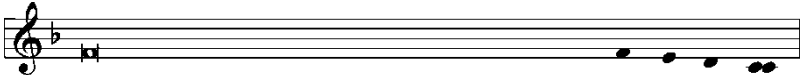
GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



- 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C]** **And also with you.**

[P] Let us pray. **[P]** 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. **[C]** **Amen.**

Sit

Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Micah 6:1-8

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.

[R] 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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 is the wisdom of the cross.

R 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."

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL **P** The Holy Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, beginning at verse 1.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by describing God's care for those who are blessed in the reign of God.

P 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

MESSAGE "Do For God"

Stand

HYMN "O God of Mercy, God of Light" LBW 425

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.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 Each other's burdens help us share;
 May we, where help is needed, there
 Give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 All those who live to live in love,
 Till you receive in heav'n above
 Those who have lived to you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
 Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

JUST AS I AM
 88 86

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

The prayers conclude:

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

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PREFACE

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 God thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus 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. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

C 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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN “Blest are They” WOV 764

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it;
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . .
3 Blest are they . . . who show mer - cy;
4 Blest are they . . . who seek peace; . . .
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . .

Gsus G D/F#

theirs is the king - dom of the God.
 they shall in - her - it the earth.
mer - cy shall be theirs.
 they are the chil - dren of God.
 all . . . be - cause . . . of me. Re -

C Dsus Gsus G

Blest are they . . . full . . . of sor - row; . . .
 Blest are they who hun - ger and thirst; . . .
 Blest are they, the pure . . . of heart . . .
 Blest are they, who suf - fer in faith; the
 joyce, be glad, . . . yours is the king - dom; . . .

Gsus G D/F#

they . . . shall be con - soled.
 they . . . shall have their fill.
 they . . . shall see God!
 glo - ry of God is theirs.
 shine . . . for all to see.

C Dsus D C/G G

Refrain
 Re - joyce and be glad!

C Dsus D G D/F#

Bless - ed are you,

Em G/D C G/B

ho - ly are you. Re - joice and be

Am A/C# D C Dsus D

glad! Yours is the king - dom of

Em Em/D C Dsus D

To stanzas End

God!

G/C G Gsus G

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: David Haas; arr. David Haas and Michael Joncas, b. 1951

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BLEST ARE THEY
irregular

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **C** Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the the Son, All glo - ry to the the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

[P] Let us pray.

[P] O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in the Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C] Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- 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 Amen.

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" LSB 634

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-er is end-ed, O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vicé in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh; setting: Leland B. Sateren, b. 1913

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications

Tune: Public domain, setting: © 1972 Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship

THE ASH GROVE
6 6 11 6 6 11 D

Luke 8:39, Col. 3:17; Num. 6:26; 1 Cor 10:16

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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