



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

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3384 Island Road ♦ Wantagh, New York



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THE HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY 9:00 AM

PLEASE STAND.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Rise Up O Saints of God

Hymn # 669

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

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.

A: A reading from Micah—

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!

⁴“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.

⁵“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.”

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?

⁷“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?”

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?

The word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15

“Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?”

P: ¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

C: ²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

P: ³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

C: ⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the

Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

P: ⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

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.

A: A reading from 1 Corinthians—

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 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.”

The word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND AS WE WELCOME THE GOSPEL.



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

- 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.
- ¹²“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.

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the Sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Hymn # 719

PLEASE STAND.

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

Petition Response to "Merciful God:" **Receive our prayer.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the Lord.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of the Lord's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the Church, including the care of those in need. **Our offering baskets are located in the back of the Sanctuary.**

OFFERTORY

Sing A Joyful Song by Jim Farrell (Featuring the Adult Choir)

PLEASE STAND.

OFFERING PRAYER

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

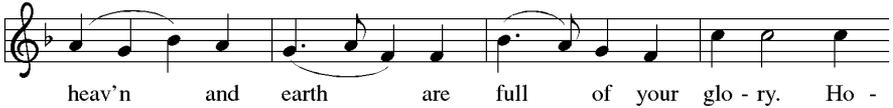
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me. For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

The assembly is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament are invited to come forward to receive. Follow the instructions of the ushers. Children who have not yet received First Communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not comfortable receiving at this time, you are welcome to remain seated.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION

To Be Your Presence

Hymn # 546

Let Us Break Bread Together

Hymn # 471

PLEASE STAND.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
+bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

Hymn # 717

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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We Welcome All Visitors to our Services!

Please introduce yourself and sign our guest book on the desk in the Sanctuary.

Parents with Restless Children may wish to move to the library, where a loudspeaker has been installed so that they may continue to follow the service in more comfortable surroundings.



Today's Altar Flowers Are Given

in Thanksgiving to God.

Today's Liturgical Color is green, a symbol of our growth in Christ.

Serving Today

Presider: The Reverend Ron Klose

Lector: Roxanne Toomey

Acolyte: Elly Kuchynskas

Communion Assistant: Barbara Stone

Altar Guild: Terry Ciro, Eileen Colton, Claudia Gross,
Lilly Ann Munnich, and Carol Shoemaker

Counters: Doris Ohlander, Roger Ohlander, and Barbara Rath

Ushers: Eric Juergens and John Gross

Coffee Hour Hosts: Regina Coons, Claudia Gross, and John Gross

Weekly Announcements

- **Thank you** to Eleanor Gould, who is filling in for Kamelija today.
- The February edition of the Spire was sent out this week. Please inform the Church office if you do not receive a copy. Thank you!
- **Thank you** to all who attended the 2023 Annual Meeting. The meeting was a success, and all budgets were passed.
- **Congratulations** to Robert Ahearn and Gene Veltri, whose nominations to the Church Council were accepted. The 2023-2024 Church Council will be installed at an upcoming worship service.
- Estimate of Giving Cards for 2023 are still being accepted. Please see Barbara Stone for questions. Thank you for supporting our mission.
- WELCA and Thrivent are collecting items to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Monetary donations as checks made out to WELCA are also accepted. The following items are needed and can be left in the loggia no later than **Sunday, February 26th, please:**
 - Bath towels (dark colors preferred)
 - Bath-size bar soap
 - Toothbrushes
 - Wide-tooth combs
 - Nail clippers
- Volunteers are needed to march with Christ Lutheran in the **Wantagh St. Patrick's Day Parade**. Please speak with Della if interested.
- Volunteers are also needed to help prepare our Easter flowers this April. If interested, please speak with Della or Lilly Ann Munnich.

- We are looking to resume our Tech Literacy Workshop! If you would like to attend, please contact the Church office or speak with Della.
- Registration for the **2023-2024 school year** at The Christian Nursery School is now open! Spots are limited and filling quickly.
- The Christian Nursery School invites you to participate in their winter cookie dough fundraiser. Order forms are available on the Coffee Hour table. Please submit all orders by **Monday, January 30th**.

CLC This Week: January 29th through February 5th

Wednesday, February 1st: WELCA Meeting, 1PM, Room 2000

Wednesday, February 1st: Bell Choir, 7PM and Adult Choir, 8PM

Friday, February 3rd: Thrift Shop, 9AM-3PM

Saturday, February 4th: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM-2PM

Sunday, February 5th: Boy Scout Sunday

For a complete list of activities this month, please visit our website,
or check your latest copy of the Spire.

St. John's Food Pantry

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Chili with Beans - Cream of Mushroom Soup - Dish Soap

Facial Tissues - Ketchup & Mustard - Laundry Soap

Oil 48oz. - Saltines - Spam

Please check the expiration dates on packaged foods before donating.

Support Our Local Churches!

- **St. David's Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park** is holding a toiletry supply drive. Needed items include: bar soap, cotton swabs, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, mouthwash, shampoo, shaving cream, tissues, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and more. All proceeds go to the Lutheran Social Services New Life Food Pantry.
- **St. Bernard's R.C. Church in Levittown's** Charitable Kidz will hold their annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" fundraising drive on **Sunday, February 12th**. This year, all proceeds benefit Ukraine relief. Further details will be published soon.



We Remember Especially Those On Our Prayer List

Debbie Becker - Ellen Bello - James Cathcart

Danielle Chillemi - Sal Costanzo - Sue Costanzo - Marge Dahlberg

Joan Drake - Joanne Drenckhahn - Charlie Fisher - Bob Freyer

Travis Gentile - Betty Gibberman - Barbara Grieser - Theresa Heenan

Bill Henderson - Arnold Howard - Carolyn Howard - Suzanne Marshall

Janet McShea - William McShea - Bill Miller - Marilyn Miller

James Pallas - Barbara Proce - Gary Proce - Catherine Rao - Emmett Reilly

Rose Reilly Ann Reimer - Barbara Reimer - Della Dorn Rice

Helga Richert - Eunice Rischan - Joseph Rizzo - Doris Spiegle

Natalie Stone - James Toomey - Laura Vogel

To add a name to our prayer list, contact the Church office.

Names remain on the list for a period of six weeks per request.



Christ Lutheran Church, Wantagh, New York

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Congregational Council

Hans Vogel, President - Nancy Pisani, Vice President

Barbara Stone, Treasurer - Kirsten Duprez, Secretary

The Rev. Dr. John Krahn - Robert Ahearn - Claudia Gross

Jeri Hallgren - James Sheridan - James Spiegle

Roxanne Toomey - Gene Veltri

Pastoral Call Committee

Eric Juergens, Chair - Dee Bloomfield - Eileen Colton

Bob Hasteadt - John Heron - Kay Riese