

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



January 29, 2023

GATHER

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

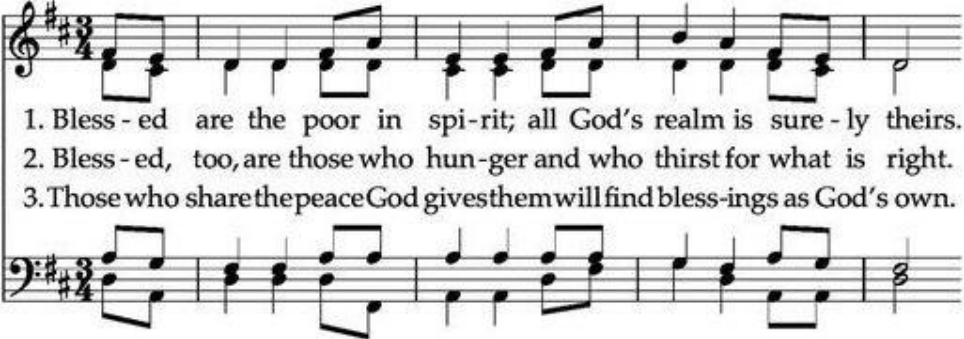
Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

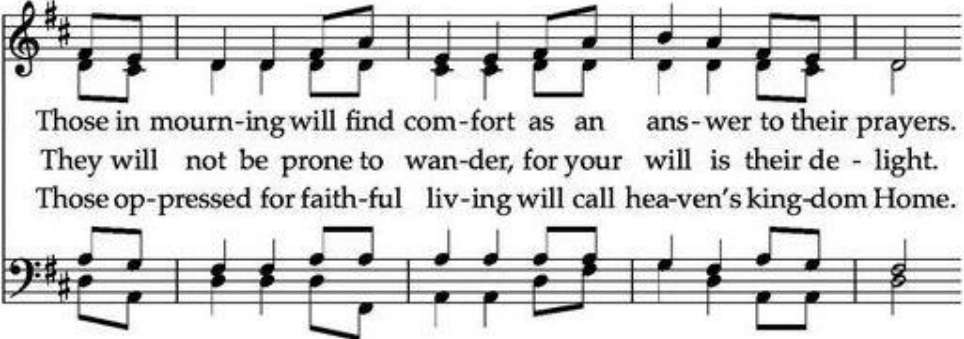
Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

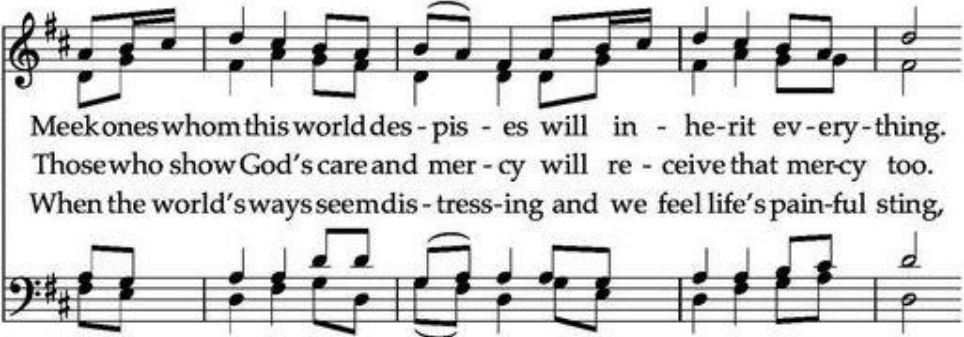
Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit



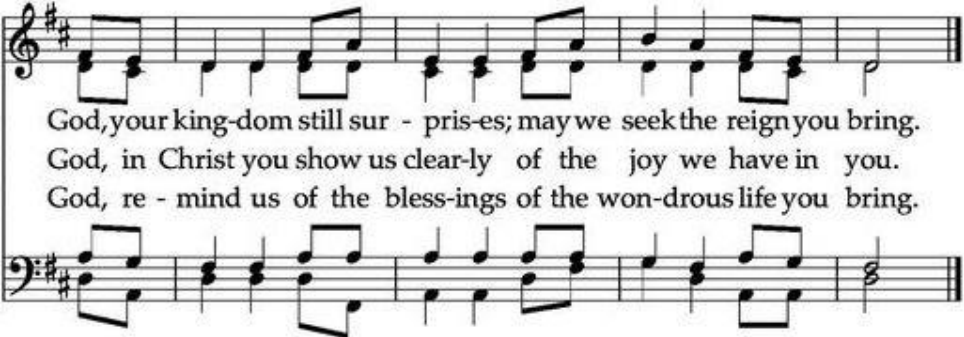
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spi-rit; all God's realm is sure - ly theirs.
2. Bless - ed, too, are those who hun-ger and who thirst for what is right.
3. Those who share the peace God gives them will find bless-ings as God's own.



Those in mourn-ing will find com-fort as an ans- wer to their prayers.
They will not be prone to wan-der, for your will is their de - light.
Those op-pressed for faith-ful liv-ing will call hea-ven's king-dom Home.



Meek ones whom this world des - pis - es will in - he-rit ev-ery-thing.
Those who show God's care and mer - cy will re - ceive that mercy too.
When the world's ways seem dis - tress-ing and we feel life's pain-ful sting,



God, your king-dom still sur - pris-es; may we seek the reign you bring.
God, in Christ you show us clear-ly of the joy we have in you.
God, re - mind us of the bless-ings of the won-drous life you bring.

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Apostolic 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.

Hymn of Praise

Christ Be Our Light

1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.

Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the dark-ness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

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

WORD

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.

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**

Psalm: Psalm 15

They who do jus-tice will live in the pres-ence of
God! They who do
jus - tice will live in the pres - ence of God!

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.

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.**

Alleluia Verse



Music: Bob Moore © Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 *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."

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Richard Rollefson

Song of the Day

Blessed Are They

Leader or All



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



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

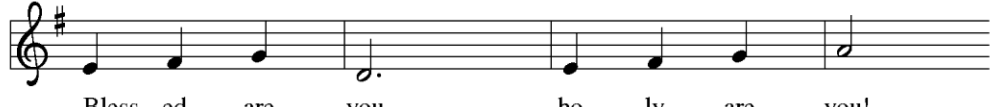


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: BLEST ARE THEY, David Haas

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Affirmation of Faith

God is our eternal light shining grace and love upon us.

**In the mystery and wonder of creation,
God's glory is made manifest.**

**In Jesus Christ, God's own face is disclosed
and God's will is revealed
in compassion and forgiveness.**

**By the indwelling of Holy Spirit
God's truth enlightens and guides our way
with faith and hope.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer requests: Sid & Beryl Bennett; Elsa Brody; Steve & JoAnn Bennett; Dave Lonsway & Family; Matthew Moersdorf; Family of Ed Dresp; Family of Marilyn Brown; Janis Sexton's family

Prayers for our church family: Sandy Rowland; Rebecca & Todd Schnack; Jeanie & Gary Schultz

The Peace & Announcements Birthdays & Anniversaries

MEAL

Offering Prayer

God of wonder,
**you formed us in our mother's womb,
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.
We wait for your mercy;
we long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of life.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 Song

God We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
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Prayer after Communion

God of wonder,
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

As you have come among us now,
send us out in joy, hastening to share
the good news of your love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The Light of Christ surrounds us, the love of Christ enfolds us,
the power of Christ protects us, the presence of Christ watches over us,
forever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Verse 1

It all comes down to this
What you require of me
Love my neighbor as myself
And You above all things

Chorus

Act justly love mercy walk humbly
With You God
In all things in all ways walk humbly
With You God

Verse 2

It all comes down to this
To be Your hands and feet
Good news to all the world
The truth will set us free

Bridge

It's beauty for ashes
It's mourning to dancing
It's closer and closer
The Kingdom of heaven

Verse 3

Years from now we'll see
The fruit our hands have sown
Faith just like a seed
The only way it grows

CCLI Song # 7168697
Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett

Dismissal

Go in peace. Let your light shine.
Thanks be to God.

Thanks to:

Greeter:

Usher:

Lector: Diane Mansell

Communion Servers: Diane Mansell

Coffee Server: Patti & Marc Frey

Altar Guild:

Musicians, Singers: Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen / Richard Rollefson / Matt Schultze / Ryan Reck / Phil Strauss / Talia Ortega / Janis Sexton / Carlyn Hinds

Flowers: Carlyn Hinds sponsors our flowers this week in celebration of her birthday. The arrangement is prepared by Cal Poly Flower Shop.