

Sunday, January 29, 2023, 9:00am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of 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.

(+ indicates you are to stand as you are able)



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Francine Linhart

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**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.

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.

Amen.



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.

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.**

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The first reading is from the book of Corinthians, the first chapter.

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.”

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Psalm 15

A reading from the fifteenth Psalm, read responsively

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

⁴**In 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.**

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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

+Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, **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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

#blessed

Pr. Neal Cannon

+Hymn of the Day

Blessed Are They

ELW 728

Prayers of the People

After each prayer petition, you will hear “Merciful God”

*Please respond with “**receive our prayer**”*

Today and throughout the week, please keep the following people and families in your prayers:

Frank Berg

Alice Lundquist

Phyllis Anderson

Pastor David Beckstrom

Brian Reiners

Those suffering from health issues both physical and mental

Stuart Collins

And all whom we name in our hearts at this time...

We also pray for the families of those who died in this past month:

Jim Horan

Maxine Michelson

Virginia Hawkinson

Marjorie Waage

Troy Nelson

Don Swanson

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Passing of the Peace

For the passing of the peace you may shake hands, fist bump, elbow bump, or simply turn and greet your fellow congregant with the word's "God's Peace," or "Peace be with you"

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.
Offerings of check or cash may be placed in a basket near the ushers as you depart.*

*Do you want to make a donation, but don't have cash or a checkbook handy?
Scan the QR code with a smartphone to make an electronic donation.*



Musical Offering

Praise the Lord
arr. N. Sleeth

WLC Choir; Andy Pokel, dir.
Francine Linhart, piano

Offering Prayer

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Orv Holland, as you leave Woodlake Lutheran Church, we wish to bid you farewell and godspeed upon your retirement.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

Orv, in holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of God's church. When you came to Woodlake, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this place you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray,

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Orv Holland, who has enriched Woodlake and shared his gifts with our church. Bless and preserve Orv in this time of transition. Day by day, guide him and give him what is needed, friends to cheer his way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling him. By your Holy Spirit be present in his journey, that he may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Orv, almighty God bless you, and direct your days and deeds in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission to the world.

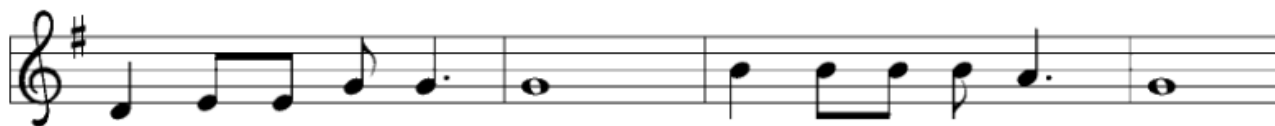
Final Blessing

Jesus lifted up children as models of faith. As we sing our Sending Hymn, we invite the participants in Godly Play and Kids' Club forward to recess during the sending hymn.

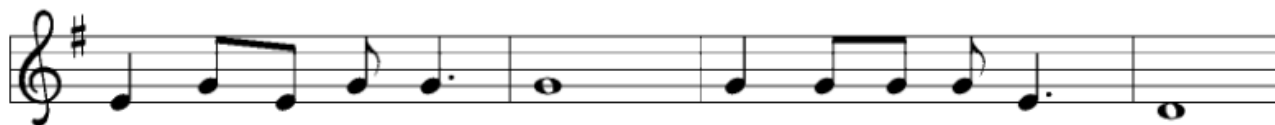
+Sending Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

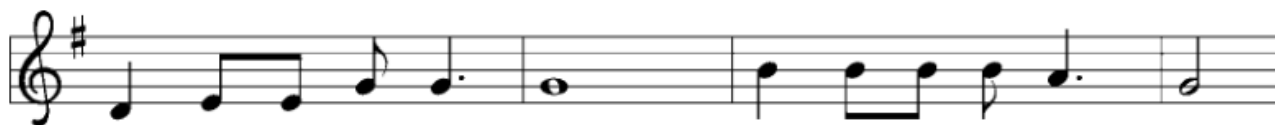
ELW 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Francine Linhart

We're so happy you joined us for worship today!

Worship Times

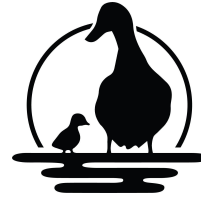
Sunday Mornings:

-
9:00am Worship
 in the Sanctuary
 -

10:30am Modern Worship
 in Fellowship Hall
 -

*The 9:00 service is
 live-streamed at:
[youtube.com/
 WoodlakeLutheranChurch](https://www.youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch)*

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Pastors

Rev. Neal Cannon
 Rev. Micah Pearson

Director of Worship & Music

Andy Pokel

Musician(s)

WLC Choir
 Francine Linhart

Assisting Minister

Laurel Johnson

AV Tech

Kirsten Hargreaves

Ushers

Rick Sunstrom
 Kathy Sunstrom
 Elmer Lalim

Maintenance Engineer

John Call

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