

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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January 29, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Introduction to Worship

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.

Prelude “Shine on Us” Michael W. and Debbie Smith

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness *[Please stand if you are able]*

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

Opening Hymn – *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* ELW #717

Greeting

P: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
II

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. . . 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.

(Please be 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.

L: The First Reading is from the Sixth chapter of 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! 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?

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

L: ¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

C: 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.**

L: 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.

L: The Second Reading is from the first chapter of 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.

⁹For 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.”

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)WOV 31



The Holy Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter: **C: 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

(Be seated after the gospel)

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn – *Rise Up O Saints of God* ELW #669

Apostles' Creed

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

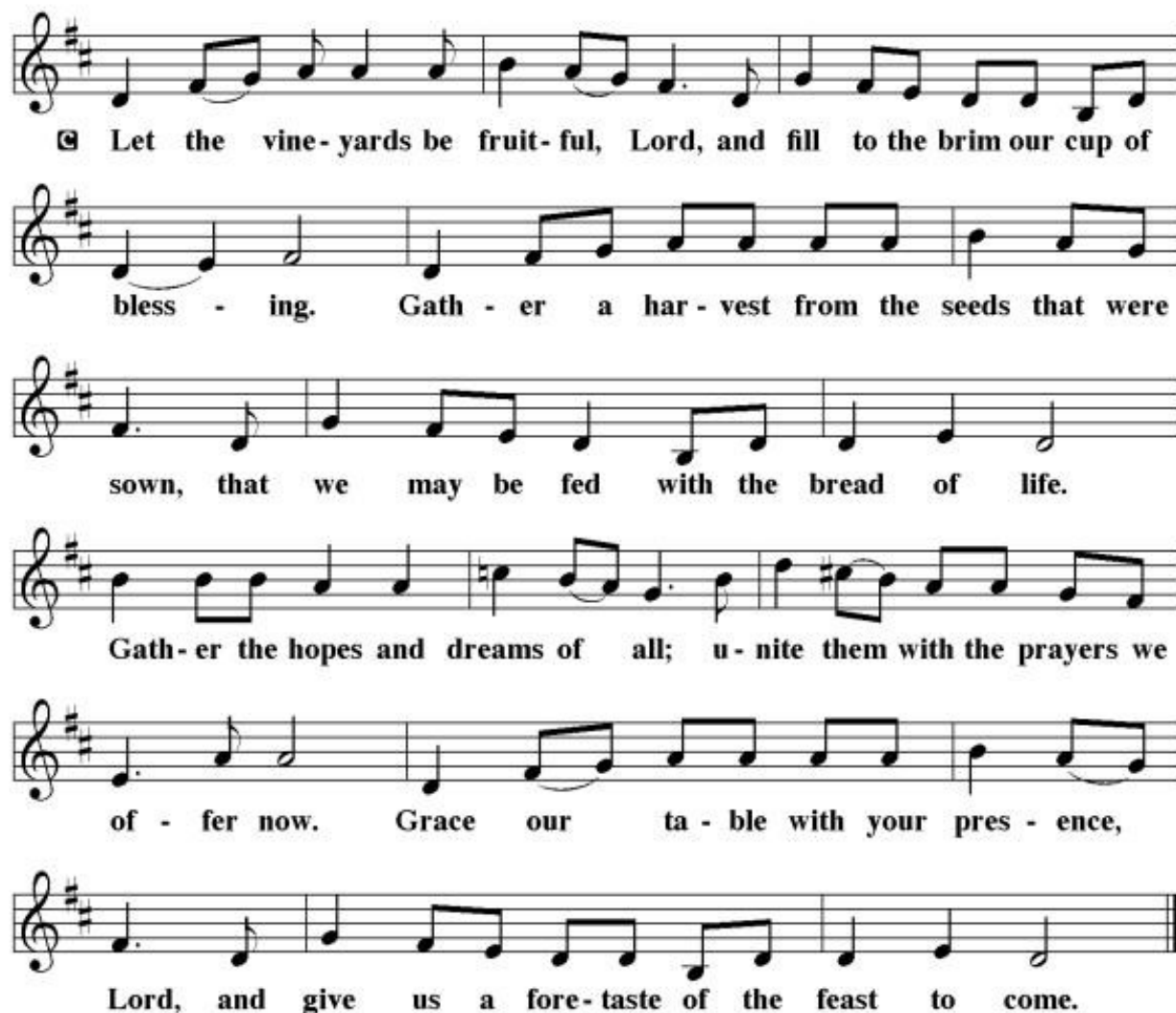
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory Choir Anthem - Light Dawns on a Weary World

Presentation of the Gifts



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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 (local and international reconciliation efforts may be named). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

Announcements

Sending 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.

Sending Song - *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* ELW #551

Dismissal.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "From Heaven on High" Arr. Gordon Young

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS
				29	Mark Harwick
30	Carolyn Williams				
31	Rachael Roney, Sharron Streletz				

<u>THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sunday, February 5, 2023	10:30	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
<u>UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sunday, February 5, 2022	10:30 AM 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Confirmation class @ St' Luke's <i>Reminder Annual reports are due <u>TODAY</u>.</i>
Friday February 7, 2023	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting
Sunday, February 12, 2023	10:30	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Souper bowl Sunday, Bring Soup!
Monday, February 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Church Council
Friday, February 17, 2023	3:00 - 7:00 PM	Soup Supper – Chicken Noodle
Sunday, February 19, 2023	10:30 AM After Church 5:00 PM-7:30 PM	Sunday after Epiphany 2023 Annual Meeting Confirmation class @ Durham
Tuesday, February 21, 2023	6:30 PM	Shrove Tuesday Pot Luck Supper in the Fellowship hall. Bring old palms.
Wednesday, February 21, 2023	1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Spoken service Regular service
Sunday February 26, 2023	10:30 AM 5:00 PM	First Sunday in Lent Reverse Advent Calendar celebration dinner @ Trinity Pleasant Valley

Congregation Constitution Update - Since it has been “only” 13 years since we last updated our church’s constitution, we will be updating it this year for approval in the 2024 congregational meeting. We need a few volunteers to work in this update. This will require about 1-2 hour per month for up to 6 months. Please see Ken Anderson for more information.

January Outreach - The offering envelopes are being collected for the AHUB homeless shelter. We are also collecting peanut butter, jelly, and personal / household cleaning products. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to donate an Outreach Basket. You can either buy the supplies for the basket or Helen Dungan can shop for you.

Please lift up in prayer the following:



Keep in your
PRAYERS

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Michael Altemus; Esther Crouse, Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; Linda Sauter; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Aiden Benoure; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Joann Gary; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Cecelia Kukuchka; Chelsea Marley; Lenny Marin; Jim McAnally; Sean McNulty; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Jennifer Phelps; Dr. Larry Rakowski; Tom Ross; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Nancy Vetter; Linda Wilson, and Henry Wong.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

For the grieving:

Wanda Altemose; LaDonna Gibbs; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Donald Seipt

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Acolyte	Samantha Mueller
Altar	Barb Naska & LeaAnn Kressman
Lector	Karen Beerer
Greeters	Jim & Karen Beerer
Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Counting Team	Mark Harwick & Val McGinn
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz

