



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

4th Sunday in Epiphany

January 29, 2023

9:30am



ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of

Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – Although Jesus does not say “blessed are the patient” as He speaks that special list of attributes of God’s people that we know as the Beatitudes, the fruit of patience underlies the “blessed are” statements He does mention. It takes patience to be merciful and to act as peacemakers. Staying calm when being persecuted for righteousness’ sake takes patience. Enduring unfair criticism takes patience as well. There may even be a need for patience as we share with the saints in the worship life of the Church. May it be fully evident among us at all times!

Pre-service Music by *Mrs. Jennifer Kirk*

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Sentences

Galatians 5:22–23; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 4:1–3

- P** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?
- C** **Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed Be Your Name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow –
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness - Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord still I will say

***CHORUS: Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name***

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be - Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering - Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord still I will say ***CHORUS***

*You give and take away, You give and take away
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name ***CHORUS****

CCLI Song # 3798438 Beth Redman/Matt Redman
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Confession and Absolution

Micah 6:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19

P Let us go to our patient, loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Heavenly Father,

C **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to exhibit patience, the fruit of Your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. We have not loved You completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have let our momentary hurts and anger displace the forbearance You have shown us. We have not walked humbly before our God. Our Lord Jesus revealed His person and ministry through His words and actions. In Your great mercy, forgive, renew, and lead us so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

How Can I Thank You, Lord



1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;
 3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion
 4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en
 △ 5 O Fa - ther, God of love, Now hear my sup - pli - ca - tion;



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!
 O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.
 And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.
 Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.
 O Sav - ior, Son of God, Ac - cept my ad - o - ra - tion;



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,
 Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn
 My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.
 Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;
 O Ho - ly Spir - it, be My ev - er faith - ful guide



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
 Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
 Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.
 May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.
 That I may serve You here And there with You a - bide.

Introit

Psalms 1:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

P For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

G Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

- P** but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.
- C** **He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.**
- P** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- C** **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.
- C** **Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1–8

- L** Hear what the Lord says:
- I** Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against His people, and He will contend with Israel.
- II** "O My people, what have I done to you? How 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 what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."
- I** "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 man, 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** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

C **Preserve me, God, my refuge be; That though in conflict others see
By my patience Christ in me.**

L O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent? Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;
who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised,

C **Preserve me, God, my refuge be; That though in conflict others see
By my patience Christ in me.**

L but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

C **Preserve me, God, my refuge be; That though in conflict others see
By my patience Christ in me.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal invisible God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed most glorious the Ancient of Days
Almighty victorious Thy great name we raise

2. Unresting unfasting and silent as light
Nor wanting nor wasting Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love

3. To all life Thou givest to both great and small
In all life Thou livest the true Life of all
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish but naught changes Thee

4. Great Father of glory pure Father of light
Thine angels adore Thee all veiling their sight
All laud we would render O help us to see
Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker 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 to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Verse

Matthew 5:3

P Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,
C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

P Patience, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, finds strength in the present moment from God's sure promises in time and eternity. Today, we confirm that we have heard the promises in the Beatitudes as we repeat them to one another.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

C **Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

P "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

C **They shall be comforted.**

P "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

C **They shall inherit the earth.**

P "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

C **They shall be satisfied.**

P “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

C **They shall receive mercy.**

P “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

C **They shall see God.**

P “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

C **They shall be called sons of God.**

P “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

C **Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

P “Blessed are you when others 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,

C **Our reward is great in heaven.**

P for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

C **The prophets who have gone to heaven before us!**

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

Sermon – “The Beatitudes – Flipping the World’s Understanding of Blessings, Reality, and Suffering Upside Down”

1. The Beatitudes are really all about an out-of-this-world type blessing which actually is **a state of being**, which is not dependent upon someone’s living conditions and external circumstances.
 - a. Even when you mourn, as a child of God, you are already blessed by God, because He is in you, He comforts you with the fact that no matter what makes you mourn, grieve, or be fearful about, He has the ultimate victory... the victory of sin and death!
 - b. They are about a New Reality as Children of God!
2. The world looks at Believers and think we’re flipped out. But the reality is Jesus flipped the world’s reality upside down.
 - What God calls good, the world calls evil. What God calls evil; the world calls good.
 - What we ourselves might think is bad for us, can actually be at times good. And what we may call good may actually be bad.
 - The blessings of God are often hidden in the lowly and weak things of this world
3. The Beatitudes are not guidelines and rules for successful Christian living! Thinking that way places the work in **our** hands... and when we fail, that can lead to a crisis of faith!
4. The Beatitudes have never been and never will be **primarily** about us. These statements of being blessed are **first and foremost** about Jesus. **They aren’t prescriptions for Believers.** **They are descriptions of Jesus** who is pure in heart and has the perfect faith in His Father.

5. We so often just breeze over our sin... busy justifying and defending ourselves... instead of letting the fact of why Jesus really came sink deeply into us, and grieve us deeply – It wasn't for Christmas joy He came as much as it was for the true joy and peace which is anchored in forgiveness, salvation, Resurrection power He won for us on the cross... And when you truly face **that** truth, letting it sink in as you dive into His Word, the Bible, live in daily repentance, and regularly come to His altar, you will be transformed and bear faithful, repentant fruit instead of wasting your life and legacy away justifying and defending your sins. The fruit you will bear is Jesus... Jesus showing through!
6. "The Theology of the Cross"
7. When we are marked with the sign of the cross, having God's name on us, we are no longer God's enemies, but enemies of satan... he is mad... and he will try to use our struggles, failures, and sufferings, even our joys and victories to take our eyes off of Jesus... to forget why He came, what He has done, and all His goodness, grace and mercy in our lives.
8. It is in repentant faith and resurrection power that the Holy Spirit enables us to bear our crosses, and we are able to look at reality and our lives in a new way, the way God sees us and everything.
9. God has promised to work in and through suffering to bring about wonderful things that only He can do! "We rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance and perseverance character and character, hope and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
10. We don't and can't earn God's blessings. It is the condition; the state of being we are brought into by God in Christ. We discover we are blessed. God sees us that way!

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Blessings

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family protection while we sleep
We pray for healing for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

CHORUS: *Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise*

We pray for wisdom Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness we doubt Your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe **CHORUS**

BRIDGE: When friends betray us when darkness seems to win we know
That pain reminds this heart that this is not this is not our home
It's not our home

*Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain the storms the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise*

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**

- P** For those who mourn, that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**

- P** For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**

- P** For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
- P** For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
- P** For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.**
- P** For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ's having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise sing praise sing praise

**CHORUS: Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
forever forever**

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
sing praise sing praise **CHORUS**

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.

Postlude Music by Mrs. Jennifer Kirk

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