

*“Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus”*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 2023**  
**8:30 AM**

*All Christians—including visitors of all denominations—are invited to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to remain at your seat, select a prefilled cup from a basket at the top of the ramps before the service begins.*



PRELUDE “Epiphany” John Leavitt

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: ELW 520, vs. 1, 3-4  
“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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 reading from Micah:

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.<sup>2</sup>Hear, 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.<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!<sup>4</sup>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.<sup>5</sup>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.”<sup>6</sup>“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? <sup>7</sup>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?" <sup>8</sup>He 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 the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 15** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>They 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW Setting 8)



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



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 5:1-12**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Sheila Rawn

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 714, vs. 1-4

"O God of Mercy, God of Light"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each prayer petition ends, "Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**"*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"Blest Are They"

Haas

OFFERTORY: [Click here to give online](#)

*Offerings may be placed in the offering plates at the top of the ramps as you leave worship. Thank you for supporting God's mission at MPLC.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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.**

### INVITATION

### DISTRIBUTION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS: <https://conta.cc/3HdMinV>

BLESSING

SENDING SONG:

ELW 551

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Shine Jesus Shine”

arr. Bock

Preacher: Pastor Sheila Rawn

Presider: Pastor Beth Ann Stone

Musician: Sue Cawley

Minister of Music: Dr. Dimitri Shapovalov

Lector: Teresa Jacobs

Communion assistants: Scott & Kara Reske

Acolyte: Marisa West

Altar Care: Barb Daanen

Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus

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