



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany — January 29, 2023





ST. PAUL CLINTONVILLE

31 North Park St
Clintonville, WI 54929
www.stpaulclintonville.com

Pastor Caleb Rothfuss
Cell: (989) 220-8833
Church Office: (715) 460-3143

Welcome Guests...

We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main entrance doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent's room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent's room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion so that we can talk about what we believe about it first.

This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. wels.net




Our focus...

TRUST IN GOD'S STRENGTH

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings. "Blessed are..." Jesus says, again and again. In the Latin Vulgate, these all begin with the word "beati" which translates as "blessed" or "happy." Thus, this portion of the sermon is often called "The Beatitudes." It had to give Jesus' listeners pause. For what Jesus calls blessed, the world never would. The world praises the strong and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others would see as weak or stupid. But, like any good preacher, Jesus is trying to drive home one crucial point. The weaker you are, the more ready you are to rely on God's strength. The more difficult your present circumstances, the likelier you are to yearn for future reward.

All the readings for today teach this truth. We have no real strength or wisdom of our own. But we don't need it. Because God's strength is enough to give the kingdom of heaven to the humble and poor in spirit.



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The Bible translation used in today's service is NIV 11.

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Morning Prayer

The music for this liturgy are printed in this worship folder.

Hymn 562

Jesus Paid It All

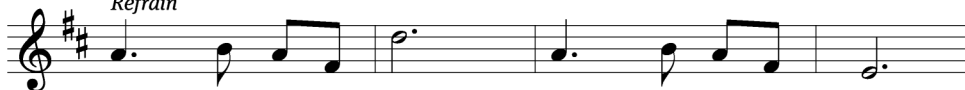


1 I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small!
2 Lord, now in - deed I find thy pow'r, and thine a - lone
3 For noth - ing good have I where - by thy grace to claim;
4 And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,



Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
can_ change the lep - er's spots and_ melt the heart of stone.
I'll_ wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," my_ lips shall still re - peat.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

Invocation *Call to Worship*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen

Confession and Absolution *based on Psalm 143*

Come, let us humbly approach our God, to whom all hearts are open
and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy,
and in your faithfulness, come to my relief.**

**Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you.

**Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

—silence for meditation—

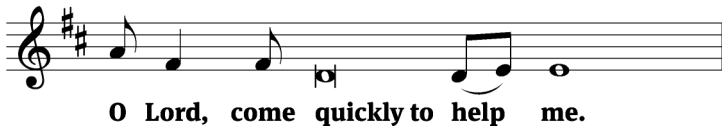
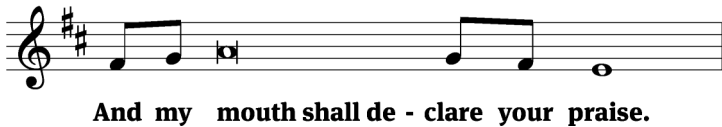
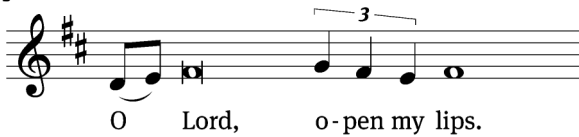
We pray...

**Almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a troubled and repentant sinner,
confess that I have sinned against you
in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart.
I have not loved others as I should.
I am distressed by the sins that trouble me
and am deeply sorry for them.**

Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.
Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Amen

Prayer and Praise *printed below*



Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord *Venite*

Refrain



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,

2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3;3:11-13*

*The LORD promises that those who are humble,
who trust in his strength rather than their own, will not be put to shame.*

³Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,
you who do what he commands.

Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be sheltered
on the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame
for all the wrongs you have done to me,
because I will remove from you
your arrogant boasters.
Never again will you be haughty
on my holy hill.

¹²But I will leave within you
the meek and humble.
The remnant of Israel
will trust in the name of the LORD.

¹³They will do no wrong;
they will tell no lies.
A deceitful tongue
will not be found in their mouths.
They will eat and lie down
and no one will make them afraid."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1 *sung responsively*

Refrain

Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers.

Refrain

Not so the / wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous.

Refrain

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de-/ struction.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be-/ ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26–31*

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of how God's strength is made perfect in weakness.

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 5:3*

Alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

The Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*

In the Beatitudes Jesus shows us the outcome of a life that is lived trusting in God's strength.

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

He said:

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

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Confession of Faith *Apostles' Creed*

The Apostles' Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. This creed was created to teach and unite Christians in the truth of God's Word. The Apostles' Creed can be found on page 197 of the hymnal.

Hymn 690

Blest Are They



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 and 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.



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!

Sermon Matthew 5:1-12

You Are God; We Praise You *Te Deum Laudamus*



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you. To



you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.



- 1 With the an - gels in heav - en, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 2 Cre - a - tor of all things, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 3 O ___ Christ, King of glo - ry, **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O ___ Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You be - came a man to set us free; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O ___ Spir - it, most ho - ly, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You have ris - en to free us; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the mar - tyrs and your ho - ly Church, **we sing in end - less praise!**
To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed, **we sing in end - less praise!**
And with all your saints in glo - ry, **we sing in end - less praise!**

Offering

Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod.

Reception of New Members

Prayer of the Church *Setting Three*

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning,
and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death.

[Especially bless . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition.]

Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters
and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Hymn 827

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, a cheer - ful
2 Did not his love and truth and pow'r guard ev - 'ry
3 His wis - dom nev - er plans in vain nor fal - ters



trust main - tain; for God, the source of ev - 'ry - thing, your
child - hood day? And did he not in threat - ning hour turn
nor mis - takes; all that his coun - sels may or - dain a



trea - sure shall re - main. Why spend the day in blank de -
dread - ed ills a - way? He al - ways will with pa - tience
bless - ed end - ing makes. Up - on your lips, then, lay your



spair, in rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor
chide, his rod falls gent - ly down; and all your sins he
hand, and trust his guid - ing love; then like a rock your



cast your care; he makes your bur - dens light.
casts a - side in o - cean depths to drown.
peace shall stand here and in heav'n a - bove.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie Eleison*

In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you; be
mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first two staves contain the lyrics 'In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.' The third and fourth staves contain the lyrics 'Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a double bar line.

The Lord's Prayer *the prayer our Savior taught us*

Thanksgiving

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God,
you have brought us safely to this new day.
Defend us with your mighty power,
and grant that this day we neither fall into sin
nor run into any kind of danger;
and in all we do direct us to what is right in your sight,
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

Benedicamus *Let us bless the Lord*

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Let us praise the Lord.' and the second staff contains 'Thanks be to God.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Blessing



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



A - men.

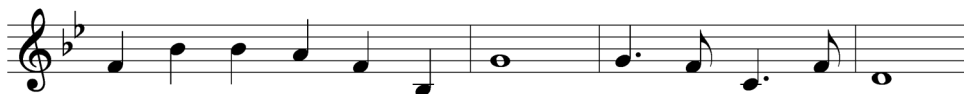


Hymn 813

He Will Hold Me Fast



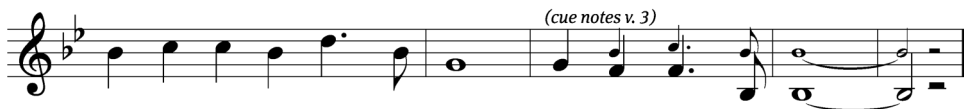
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



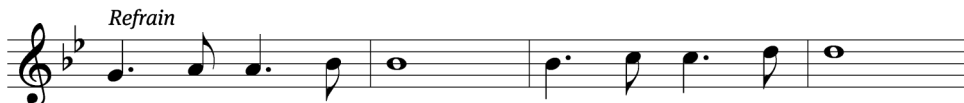
when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
pre-cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain 2X)



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

WELS Connection a monthly update highlighting some of the work our larger church body is doing to carry out the mission of the church. Our church supports these efforts through our budgeted mission offering.

