

## Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Emma Elder, Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Rylan McCarthy, Ellery Tormoen.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*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.*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

### Announcements

#### **Gathering**

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

### Confession and Forgiveness

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.

**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

Gathering Hymn      “O God of Mercy, God of Light”      **ELW #714**

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.**

**\*KYRIE**      **ELW p. 184**

**\*Canticle of Praise**      **“Glory to God“**      **ELW p.185**

**\*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**

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.

Dismissal

Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Justin Arndt

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker,  
Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Wynn Liersch, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman,  
Debra Welch, Patrick Reardon, Denny Robinson.

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty,  
Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

**CALENDAR**

Feb. 1	Confirmation	6:30pm-8:00 pm
Feb. 4	Blood Drive	7:00am—Noon
Sun., Feb. 5	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please** stay for the annual meeting, which will follow worship. The Transition Committee will be making a report, along with the election of council members, and the other usual thrilling and interesting business of the church.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sparling

Hymn "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" ELW #719

**OFFERING**

\*Offertory Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil" ELW #512

**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.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Merciful God, receive our prayer)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**Sending**

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

\*Benediction

Sending Hymn "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" ELW #551

**Micah 6:1-8**

<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**

<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.

### Second Reading

*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.*

#### 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,  
 "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."  
<sup>20</sup>Where 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? <sup>21</sup>For 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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.  
<sup>26</sup>Consider 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. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the

wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

**ELW p. 188**

### GOSPEL READING

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

#### Matthew 5:1-12

**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.**