

1-29-23

Processional Hymn *All praise to thee* #477

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine, didst yield the glory that of right was thine, that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine. Alleluia!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought; by thee the outcast and the poor were sought; and by thy death was God's salvation wrought. Alleluia!

Let this mind be in us which was in thee, who wast a servant that we might be free, humbling thyself to death on Calvary. Alleluia!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou art high exalted o'er all creatures now, and given the Name to which all knees shall bow. Alleluia!

Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord; and God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia! Amen.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Holy God

Holy and Mighty

Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy upon us.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Introduction: Today's lesson is a conversation between what many believe is one of Israel's kings to God. Instead of asking for forgiveness, the king tries to gain access to God's presence through good works and rituals.

The prophet responds with what God requires.

A reading from the prophet Micah

Micah 6:6-8

“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 tens of 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 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

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend;

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected,

but he honors those who fear the Lord.

He has sworn to do no wrong

and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain,

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things

shall never be overthrown.

A reading from the Letter to the Church in Corinth

1 Cor. 1:18-31

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today's debaters? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? In God's wisdom, he

determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Some ask for signs, and others look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to some and foolishness to others. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. But God chose what the world considers foolish to embarrass the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to embarrass the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. So no human being can brag in God's presence. It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. This is consistent with what was written: *The one who brags should brag in the Lord!*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* #135

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise, manifested by the star to the sages from afar; branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; and at Cana, wedding-guest, in thy Godhead manifest; manifest in power divine, changing water into wine; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ. *MT 5:1-12*

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

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

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

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

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

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

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

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

“Blessed are you when people 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, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light,
where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.
When from there thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem,
cross and Easter Day attest God in man made manifest.*

The Sermon

The Rev. David Marshall

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine upon the Church, the world and all people according to their need.

A brief silence

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Bless the Church, and all those who have been baptized, to bring your mercy and peace to all.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. We pray for all who are persecuted on account Christ. Keep them steadfast in faith and gracious in witness. Soften the hearts of their enemies, and bring them to repentant faith in Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the merciful. Pour out your Spirit upon the leaders of every nation. Give them the wisdom and the will to protect and provide for their people. Make them prefer mercy over might.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the peacemakers. Keep in your care all who take up arms in defense of liberty and justice for all. Give them a spirit of wisdom and understanding. Bring them safely home, and speed the day when deeds of war are done no more, especially in Ukraine.

Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. We pray for all who sit in the darkness of suffering. Especially we pray for Downs IV, Holden, Tyler, Barbara, Anne, Victoria, BJ and John. For those going through cancer treatments, especially, Georgiana, Margaret, Bill, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie and Douglas. And, for those under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara, Kim and Mary Ann.

Silence

Restore them to life and hope; encourage all who care for them; lead them into the brightness of your presence and the company of all who love them.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those who mourn. Pour out your spirit on all who grieve. *Silence*

Help us to remember with joy all those for whom we love but see no longer. Grant that all who have passed through the waters of Baptism, may walk the pathways of this mortal life, refreshed by your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our

Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* #616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his
sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever, his changeless Name of Love.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia