

The Beatitudes

5 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed 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. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon Hymn: 556 Rise, Shine, You People

Sermon: The Wisdom of God

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Hymn: 550 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White v 1

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 745 May the Peace of God

Ushers: This Week – Hunter Boettcher & Jeremy Foltz
Next Week – Jake Horta & Alex Ellifson

Greeters: This Week – Keith & Lynn Fry
Next Week – Chuck & Sharon Christoph

Cleaning: This Coming Week – Wayne & Shirley Boos
The Following Week – Jim Lichtenberg
(There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.)

The Fourth Sunday in Epiphany – February 1 & 2

P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Pg. 45 Sunday (Pg. 52 Saturday)

Opening Hymn: ECC-K *“In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified”*

Prayer of the Day:

M: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Micah 6:1-8

God builds a case against the people of Israel. He calls the mountains as witnesses and lodges a charge against the unfaithful people. Yet look at the grace when he still calls them, “My people!” This faithless and wayward group he still calls his own and reminds them of all his righteous acts from the Exodus until the crossing of the Jordan (from Shittim to Gilgal). Israel, though, does not respond in faith, but in sinful pride: What must I do to make this right (v 6)? No sacrifice from human hands could clear the guilt. The sacrifice God wanted was a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17) that knows its weakness and trusts in the strength of God’s saving grace. Then God will give the strength to act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

The Lord’s Case Against Israel

6 Listen to what the LORD says: “Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. ²Hear, O mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. ³“My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. ⁴I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. ⁵My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.” ⁶With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my

transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 1, p. 64

Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of God’s strength made perfect in weakness. The majority of them did not come from the upper crust of society or the ranks of the learned. God, however, chose them. Paul’s list of God’s chosen ones fits well with Jesus’ description of the blessed ones in the Gospel. God chooses the losers of this world, not the winners; he chooses the weak, not the strong, so that there is no doubt as to the nature of his one-sided grace. The weaker we are, the more ready we are to trust in God’s strength and boast in the work he does in us.

²⁶ Brothers, 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. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It 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. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Verse of the day: *Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18a cf. NIV)*

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the world upside down. He calls blessed the people this world never would. He calls blessed people that the world would use as doormats! The world praises the brash, the strong, and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others see as weak or stupid. To live this kind of blessedness requires a deep trust in the Lord’s strength and a long-term view of life. Jesus calls us blessed even in circumstances like mourning and persecution, because he is looking beyond the troubles of this world to the reward that is waiting for the people of God. Like reading the last chapter of a book, Jesus takes the mystery out of a life filled with sorrow by showing us the end, the outcome of life lived trusting in God’s strength. All the weak children of God can rejoice and be glad—even now—because our reward will be great!