

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

January 29, 2023: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *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.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (ELW 669)

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 203)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you;

here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior,

you have come from heav'n above;

on the cross you died to save us;

now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;

in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.

For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)

Let us pray.

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.

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, chapter 6:

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, 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.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For 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.

⁵O 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."

⁶"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?

⁷Will 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?"

⁸He 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: Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

⁴**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.**

⁵They 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: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*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.*

A reading from 1st Corinthians, chapter 1:

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of
God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand

signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider 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. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in 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 (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught 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 receive mercy.

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

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

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

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice 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: GOD'S JUSTICE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Justice Flow like Streams* (ELW 717)

CREED (ELW p. 206)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY (ELW p. 206)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 206)

Let us pray.

God of Glory,

With great joy we worship you and lay before you these gifts, which you have first given us. Let our lives serve you only, and lead us always to our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, the bright an morning star. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

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.**

BLESSING (ELW p. 209)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 209)

Go in peace. Proclaim Christ!

Thanks be to God.

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP TIMES



WEST 9:00 am worship (*coffee after church at 10:00 am*)

BOTH 10:00 am West JAM/East Sunday school

EAST 11:00 am worship (*coffee always after church*)

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Jan. - Dan Zieman

Deacon: Jan. - Jane Williams

Reader: Jan. 29 - Sonya Mansfield

East Acolytes: Ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

SNOW TUBING!!! Calling All Kids!

West invites all East Sunday School and Luther League kids to a snow tubing adventure! It will be on Sunday, February 5th from 2 to 4 pm at Camp Victory, 58212 403rd Ave, Zumbro Falls, MN. *A free will offering is welcome but not required; West St. Olaf is covering the cost for all kids and adults.*

ATTENTION PARENTS: First Holy Communion Classes

The final class will meet at 2:00 pm TODAY, Jan. 29th at West. Then next Sunday, **February 5th**, we will hold the First Holy Communion service at East.

Contributions

(01/22) Current \$1,241 and Benevolence \$75.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

Deadline for bulletin information – Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.

Submit any newsletter info by the 20th of each month.

TODAY	9:00 am	EAST worship... then coffee
	10:00 am	West JAM/ East Sunday school
	10:00 am	West coffee before church
	11:00 am	West worship
	2:00 pm	<u>at West- CLASS for 1st Communion</u>
Tues.	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Wed.	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at East
Thur.	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Fri.	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Sun. 02/05	9:00 am	WEST worship/comm.- with Rite of First Holy Communion for West Students ... AND during service, the Installation of West Officers
	10:00 am	West coffee after church
	10:00 am	West JAM/ East Sunday school
	11:00 am	EAST worship / <u>comm. with Rite of First Holy Communion for East students ... AND during service, the Installation of East Officers</u>
	1:30 pm	Zumbro River Conference Assembly via ZOOM
	2-4:00 pm	BOTH E & W: Snow tubing at <u>Camp Victory: 58212 403rd Ave, Zumbro Falls, MN</u>

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Feb. 6 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Feb. 7 (Tue.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting /sack lunch
	6:00 pm	<u>East council meeting</u>
Feb. 8 (Wed.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	1:00 pm	West WELCA meeting <i>Study-Gloria, Host-Jana Thompson</i>

	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at East
Feb. 9 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office (<i>but at 10am he goes to Kasson ministerial meeting</i>)
Feb. 10 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Feb. 12 (Sun.)	9:00 am	WEST worship
	10:00 am	West coffee after church
	10:00 am	West JAM/East Sunday school
	11:00 am	EAST worship
Feb. 13 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	7:00 pm	West council meeting
Feb. 14 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Feb. 15 (Wed.)	7:00 pm	Confirmation class at East
Feb. 16 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Feb. 17 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Feb. 19 (Sun.)	9:00 am	WEST worship
	10:00 am	West coffee after church
	10:00 am	West JAM/East Sunday school
	11:00 am	EAST worship/communion
Feb. 20 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
	7:00 pm	<u>Deadline to submit newsletter info</u>
Feb. 21 (Tue.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
Feb. 22 (Wed.)		<u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u>
	7:00 pm	<u>Ash Wed. service at EAST – all Confirmation students attend</u>
Feb. 23 (Thur.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
Feb. 24 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Feb. 26 (Sun.)	9:00 am	WEST worship/communion
	10:00 am	West coffee after church
	10:00 am	West JAM/East Sunday school
	11:00 am	EAST worship
Feb. 27 (Mon.)	9am-Noon	Pastor at office
		<u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u>
		<u>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40-collate)</u>
Feb. 28 (Tue.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Verla Holman (*friend of Marylin Carlson*), Orillie Iverson, Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*Paul Jordan was his father-in-law*), Dalton Mansfield (*currently serving aboard ship*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Gloria Pew, Kelly Pratt (*Ginny's daughter*), Nancy Jensen, Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Ginny Hyland, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Martha Beaver, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). Those serving in our military: Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland – deployed overseas*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*), and Tully Hovda (*son of Todd & Cathy Hovda*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am-Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Please send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

OUR JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Bruce Peterson – Cell: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns - Home: 206-3158, Cell: 254-5285

Bryan DeCook - Cell: 208-1590