

THE APOSTLES CREED (page 181) - see slides

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (spoken responsively) - see slides

OFFERING

HYMN: #746: "I Love to Tell the Story" - see slides

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING - see slides

CLOSING HYMN #927: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" - see slides

Thank you to our Worship Team:

Accompanist: Amibeth Olderman

Live Stream: Kevin Duveneck

Power Point: Charlee Malley, Patty Levendusky, Dave Bergquist

Ushers: Rod Ash, Aaron Mueller, Steve Malley

Greeters: Tammy Brunner, Heidi Malley, Kim Mueller

*Thank you also to our Presiding Minister, Pastor David Laabs
and*

Our Guest Preacher on Monday, Pastor John Beck

Our Mission Statement

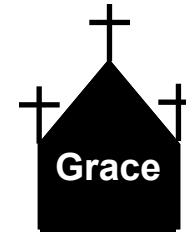
"Compelled by Christ's love and rooted in God's Word, the mission of Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool is to connect people to Christ. We...

Glorify Christ with our lives.

Gather with fellow members of Christ's family to encourage each other.

Grow in our relationship with Christ through His Word and Sacraments.

Go as Christ's representatives to our families, communities and the world."



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Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am, Mondays 6:30pm



TRUST IN GOD'S STRENGTH

**January 29 & 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

January 29 & 30, 2023

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.

Listening Assist Aids are available. Please see an usher.

Today's Theme: 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.

The Service - Setting Two pg. 172

HYMN #573: "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"- see slides

CONFESSION - *Responsive prayer - see slides*

LORD, HAVE MERCY - *Kyrie (Sung responsively, see slides)*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST - *Gloria in Excelsis - see slides*

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by Pastor - ALL speak the Amen*)

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.

C: 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." P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1B (*from Psalter*) (*All sing*) - *see slides*

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."

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*ALL sing*) - *see slides*

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN #619: "Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him" - *see slides*

SERMON THEME:

SUNDAY: Jesus Teaches Us About True Happiness (Matthew 5:1-12)

- 1. It contradicts the world's view of things.**
- 2. It is demonstrated in Jesus' ministry.**
- 3. It challenges us to live our faith.**

MONDAY: Here is the Servant of the Lord! (Isaiah 42:1-7)