

THE BEATITUDES

(MATTHEW 5:3-16)



TAKING THE WAY OF JESUS INTO THE TOWNS, VILLAGES & CITIES
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:



SHEILA BUNNELL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Matthew's Gospel.
Matthew is the focus of Year 1 Gospel readings in the Narrative Lectionary.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Sat with His Disciples

LSB 932



1 Je - sus sat with His dis - ci - ples On a
 2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the
 3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing



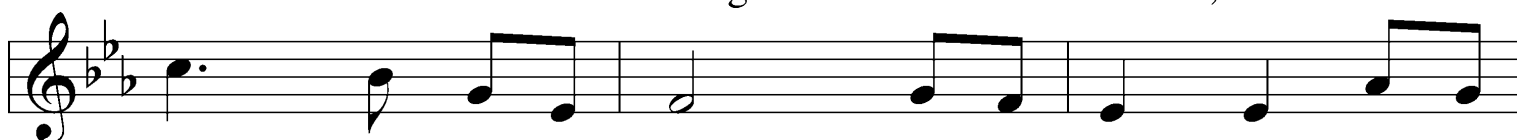
moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo-ple
 earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be
 peace where there is strife. Bless - ed are the per - se -



gath - ered, He be - gan to teach and say:
 ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled.
 cut - ed, Who for righ - teous-ness lose life;



"Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, Heav - en's
 Yes, the mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy
 Their re - ward is great in heav - en, In the



king - dom they will share. Bless-ed are the sad and
 will to them be shown. And the pure in heart are
 king - dom up a - bove— So be glad to share My



mourn - ing, Joy and com - fort will be theirs.
bless - ed, They have eyes for God a - lone.
suf - f'ring And re - joice to know My love."

Invocation (Based on Matthew 11:28-30)

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to Me all who are weary, and I will give You rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me.

For I am gentle and lowly in heart."

C: For You have promised we will find rest for our souls.

P: For His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution (Matthew 22:34-40;19:16-26;18:13-14,19-20;20:28)

P: When asked "Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?", Jesus said,

**C: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Jesus said, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

**C: This brings us sorrow, Lord,
Because we treasure many things which are not focused on You.
Who then can be saved?**

P: Jesus declares, "With people this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible."

He rejoices more over finding one lost sheep than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. It is not His will that one of you should perish.

**C: For the Lord has promised:
Where two or three are gathered in His Name,
He is among us with His forgiveness.**

P: Indeed, He is here in the power of His forgiveness for you today.

He comes not to be served

but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for you.

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis (based on Matthew 20:28)

LSB 971, st. 2



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Responsive Collect (Prayer of the Day) based on the Beatitudes

P: Let us pray. Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

C: **Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.**

P: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

C: **Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.**

P: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

C: **Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.**

P: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

C: **Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.**

P: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

C: **Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead. Amen.**

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires;
with the assistance of the Pastors of Circuit 1 of the Northern Illinois District (LCMS).

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Responsive Collect: Written by Bruce Prewer. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/beatitude-acclamations.html>

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Sermon on the Mount Reading

Matthew 5:1-16 (NET)

When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. After he sat down his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them by saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

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 satisfied.

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 the children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its flavor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people! ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.

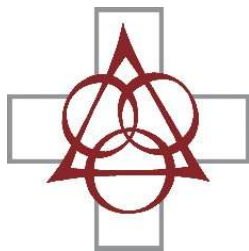
L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Collect (Prayer of the Sermon of the Mount)

P: Lord Jesus, thank You for demonstrating the Way of Your Kingdom and teaching us how to live out that Way in our daily lives. May we be transformed by Your wisdom so that we may represent Your Kingdom in the towns, villages, and cities. And though we know this world will remain broken, just as we will not always live in Your Ways—thank You for Your steadfast compassion and forgiveness—yet our hope remains that one day You will return and restore all things in Your forever kingdom, for You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

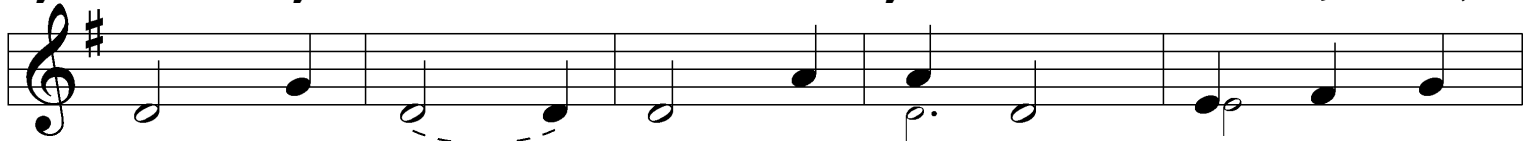
C: Amen.



Hymn of the Day

Blest Are They

LSB 982 sts. 1, ref, 2, 5



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -

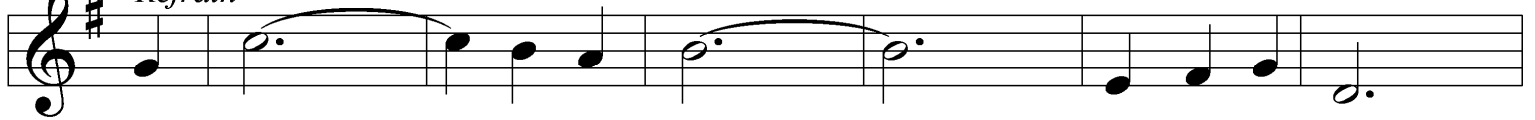


king - dom of God. Blest are they, full of
her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and
cause of Me. Re - joice and be glad, yours is the



sor - row; They shall be con - soled.
thirst; They shall have their fill.
king - dom; Shine for all to see.

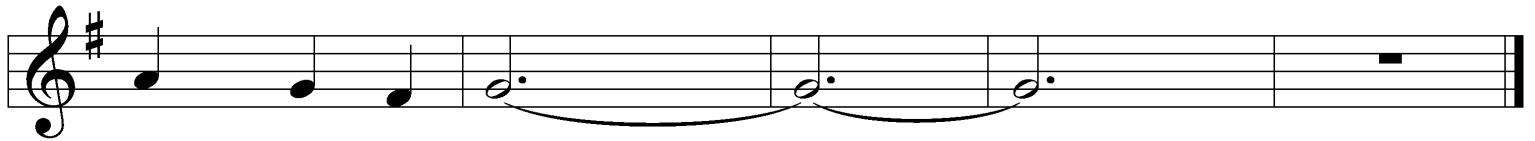
Refrain



Re - joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you,



ho-ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the



king - dom of God.

Sermon

Confession of Faith from Matthew 11:2-6; 16:13-16

P: When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

C: *Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind receive their sight and the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear,
and the dead are raised up,
and the poor have good news preached to them.
And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”*

P: Jesus asked His disciples, using the title “Son of Man” to speak about Himself,
“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
And the disciples said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah,
and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
Then He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?”
And I also ask you, disciples here today, “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

C: *Simon Peter replied,
and we also say,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Amen.*

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Matthew 19:28, 12:18-21)

LSB 920 sts. 2,5; tune: 616

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)

2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with
5 We are the Church: Christ bids us show That in His

Him His ser - vants gain; With Christ the Ser - vant
Church all na - tions find Their hearth and home where

- Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
Christ re - stores True peace, true love to all man - kind.

Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

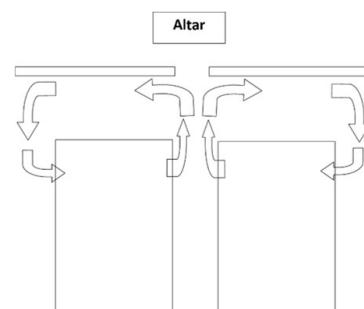
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace. Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preface of the Lord's Supper (based on Matthew 21:1-11; 26:2; 3:17; 17:15; 25:34)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: The Lord sent His prophet to say to the people of Zion, Jerusalem,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey.’”

And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people welcomed Him saying:

C: “Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!”

P: The whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said,

C: “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P: But Jesus was not just another one of the prophets,
as God the Father declared at His Baptism:

C: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: And God the Father reminded the disciples again at His Transfiguration:

C: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”

P: Then Jesus reminded the disciples in Jerusalem that “the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” By His crucifixion, and by His Supper, He extends this invitation: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Proper Preface for Matthew

LSB “Apostles and Evangelists”

P: We pray: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (based on Matthew 26:26–29)

LSB 445, st. 1 & 3, alt.



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
teach - er, faith - ful friend, What great gift that you would
give them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
“Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood.”



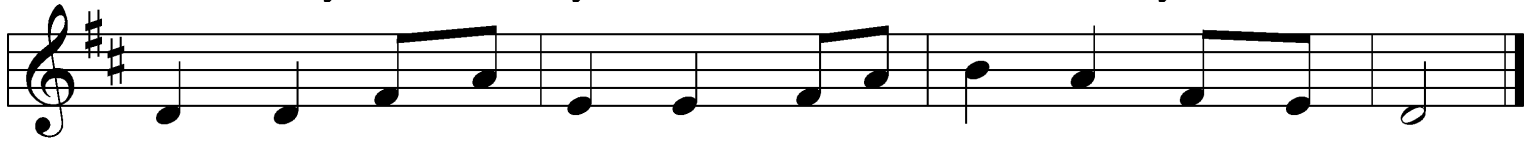
sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
 How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord... C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer (Based on Matthew 1:22-23; 2:5-6; 3:17; 3:16)

P: Let us pray. Lord, all this has taken place to fulfill what You had spoken by the prophet, "They shall call His Name Immanuel—God with us." And it was also written, "From Bethlehem...shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel." Jesus came preaching, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," and now we are the people dwelling in darkness who have seen a great light, those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, and on us a light has dawned in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in His body and blood given to us.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on Matthew 28:18-20)

P: As Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended into heaven, He says to you,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Blest Are They

LSB 982 sts. ref, 3-4

3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy;
4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who suf - fer in
heart; They shall see God!
faith; The glo - ry of God is theirs.
Refrain
Re - jice and be glad! Bless-ed are you,
ho-ly are you. Re - jice and be glad! Yours is the
king - dom of God.

Announcements