

Welcome to Worship

January 29, 2023

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. 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.

Prelude *Preludes for Piano: II. Andante con moto e poco rubato* ~ George Gershwin

Gathering Hymn *When a Star is Shining* ~ ACS 915

Prayer of the Day

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.

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.

⁵ O 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?"

⁸ 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?

Flowers this week are provided by Vicki Easson in Honor of All of the Saints at All Saints!

Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel^l of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats^l of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law^l of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching^l day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that^l do not wither;
everything they^l do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so^l with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind^l blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when^l judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council^l of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way^l of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall^l be destroyed.**

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

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.”

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Are You ~ Bret Hesla

Musical Offering

I Stand With You ~ Lacey Brown (Grace Notes)

Offertory Hymn

Many Will Come ~ ACS 982

Communion Hymns

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart ~ Henry Smith

Sending Hymn

All The People Said Amen ~ GNSB

Postlude

Preludes for Piano: III. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso ~ George Gershwin