

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
6th Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025
9:15 AM Worship Express**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant **Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz
Lector: Jenny Hoffman
Acolytes: Brady Sickles & Beckett Horswill
Ushers: David Olson and the Soderlings
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Today Jesus preaches one of his most famous sermons, "The Sermon on the Plains." There are a lot of "You are blessed" or "There is trouble ahead" in his sermon. In any sermon or story the listener is challenged to identify with one or another of the characters. As we listen to Jesus' words we are challenged to ask ourselves, which one are we, the ones that are blessed or the ones facing trouble.

CALL TO WORSHIP "Open The Eyes of My Heart, Lord" First Class Ringers

Words to meditate upon...

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see You. I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up. Shinin' in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

CONFESSION

P: Blessed be God our Creator, Jesus our Protector and the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

C: Amen

P: Merciful God,

Right Side: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the times we are judgmental, cruel, or simply do not care.

Left Side: *Forgive us for the times we ignore the needs of our neighbors and do not respond to your call to fight injustice.*

Right Side: Forgive us for the times we are afraid there will not be enough for me, let alone anyone else...

Left side: *and assume the worst about one another.*

All: Forgive us for our faults and release us from their grip. Show us your loving kindness. Mend our hearts that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

P: God shouts these words of assurance so all can hear: "Do not fear! I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." Jesus forgives us. The Spirit frees us. God is full of grace. Let us live as God's beloved children.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" ELW #866

**vs. 1: We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (2 times)**

**We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God. (2 times)**

vs. 2: We are dancing...

vs. 3: We are singing...

WELCOMING GOD'S PEOPLE

P: God gathers God's People together to encourage them with the WORD and strengthen them with the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

All: Amen!

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God.

P: In the WORD was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The WORD became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Alleluia" Dakota Road Anthology #128

$\text{♩} = 120$

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

5

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world. Those who

10

fol - low me will not walk in dark - ness.

13

Those who fol - low me will have the light of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: O Lord, you have the power to make all things new. Make us new and with renewed lives may you shine through us. In Jesus; name we pray. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "Open Our Eyes"

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Lector: The Good News according to Luke the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOOD NEWS READING: Luke 6:17-26

Lector: ¹⁷⁻²¹ Coming down off the mountain with them, he stood on a plain surrounded by disciples, and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all

over Judea and Jerusalem, even from the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke:

Jesus (Women and Girls): You're blessed when you've lost it all. God's kingdom is there for the finding.

Jesus (Men and Boys): You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry. Then you're ready for the Messianic meal.

Jesus (All): You're blessed when the tears flow freely. Joy comes with the morning.

Lector:²²⁻²³ Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—skip like a lamb, if you like!—for even though they don't like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

Jesus (Women and Girls): ²⁴ **But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made. What you have is all you'll ever get.**

Jesus (Men and Boys): ²⁵ **And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself. Your *self* will not satisfy you for long.**

Jesus (All): **And it's trouble ahead if you think life's all fun and games. There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it.**

Lector: ²⁶ "There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests—look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.

Lector: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE DAY: "I Shall Not Be Moved"

**Refrain: I shall not, I shall not be moved be moved; (2 times)
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.**

vs. 1: When my cross is heavy, I shall not be moved; (2 times)
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved. Refrain...

Vs 2: Jesus is our captain, I shall not be moved; (2 times)
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved. Refrain...

Vs. 3: fighting sin and Satan, I shall not be moved; (2 times)
like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved. Refrain...

GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all!

All: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "This Little Light of Mine"

vs. 1: This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

vs. 2: Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew. All are welcome.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you have nourished us at this table. We have eaten the bread and wine of Holy Communion. With you inside of us, we have the strength and the courage to go out into this world and be your people. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

P: May God our Creator, Jesus our Provider and the Life Giving Spirit + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion and send you out to live.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Live in hope!

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE