

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA

Rev. E. Robert Burkhart, Pastor

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Leader: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

The First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

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 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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 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 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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.”

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

(A brief silence.)

Leader: We pray for unity in the body of Christ. Bind up fractures within the church. Humble the proud, and lift up the lowly. Make us one at your table of Grace. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We praise you for the beauty of the universe and thank you for the work of caring for your creation. Mold us into the stewards you would have us be and show us your ways. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for peacemakers in the world and an end to violence. Restore our communities and grant us justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our neighbors who are lost and seeking after you. Have mercy on the downtrodden and oppressed, and abide with all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Especially we ask your presence with all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P A U S E) Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We thank you for this congregation and for its ministries in the world. Bless our work and play, and deepen our faith. Grow our discipleship and equip us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Leader: We praise you for all the saints who died proclaiming the gospel and gone to their rest in you. Strengthen us through their witness till that day when we shall join them in singing endless praises to you. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong.: Amen.