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**4th Sunday after the Ephiphany**

“Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them.” *Matthew 5:1-2*

**AS WE GATHER**

Today’s Old Testament Reading is the basis for the reproaches, traditionally spoken on Good Friday: “Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people . . .” We know that, like God’s ancient people, we fail to live in ways pleasing to Him. In terms of the Epistle, we reflect the world around us in its false wisdom, rather than rejoicing in God’s great folly in sacrificing His Son for us. And so, we pay more attention to the beginning of each Beatitude rather than finding solace in the reason for the blessing coming with that circumstance or action. But the Law-filled “do” in that list is covered by the “done” in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. He is the only One who fulfilled all our heavenly Father’s will. And the Good News is that He did it in our place! He took all the Father’s reproaches, all our worldliness, and all our failures to the cross. The great epiphany there was our Lord’s showing the world God’s boundless love for us. How shall we respond?

**PSALM** 15-16:1

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Five, pg. 213)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”* (*LSB* 848)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Micah 6:1-8 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 5:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

# NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**HYMN** *“Son of God, Eternal Savior”* (*LSB* 842)

**SERMON *“The Meek Inherit”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (*LSB*, pg. 215-216)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**PREFACE** (*LSB*, pg. 216)

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* (*LSB* 425)

*“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”* (*LSB* 848)

**POST-COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 218)

**HYMN** *“Lift High the Cross”* (*LSB* 837)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**