

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26 & 29, 2023

The Season The season of Epiphany highlights the revealing of the Son of God as the Savior of the whole world—both Jew and Gentile. God revealed the mystery of his person and his mission through the words and works of the Father, though the anointing and empowering of the Spirit, and through the preaching and miracles of Christ.

The Sunday The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength! The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a Christianity imbued with fatalism at best or defeatism at worst. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are, the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the more ready you are to trust in a future reward. Look at the past acts of God's grace and you will find many reasons to trust his strength in the face of adversity, persecution or sorrow.

Hymn

All Depends on Our Possessing CW 421



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
4 Well he knows what best to grant me; All the long - ing
5 If on earth my days he length - en, He my wea - ry



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
hopes that haunt me, Joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul will strength - en; All my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en In their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er— As God wills, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, Like a stream a -



not for - sak - en And e'er keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, Will re - main my help di - vine.
last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.
be it ev - er— I to him com - mit my way.
way is glid - ing; Safe I an - chor in his grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN (887 887) Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, alt.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod



MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel

to help people

Grow

in the Gospel

and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank

God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children need
to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through his
Word and Sacrament.
We acknowledge our
sin and rejoice in the
good news of
forgiveness through
the life and death of
Christ. This is the focus
of our worship.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score ends with a double bar line.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

Junior Choir

The Lord is My Salvation (8:00)

First Lesson:

Daniel 3:13-27

Rejoice and be glad, Jesus said, because great is your reward *in heaven*. He does not promise to keep us from a martyr's death or Christian persecution *on earth*. He promises to reward us in spite of them. That we might trust his promises of future reward, however, he shows us his righteous acts of the past. The God of the Three Men in the Fiery Furnace can be trusted! As they stood before great Nebuchadnezzar, these men looked weak. As they chose the path of righteousness rather than accommodation, they seemed stupid. As they spoke about a powerful God, their words and actions seemed powerless. At the weakest moment of their lives—despised, condemned, bound hand and foot and falling into an inferno—they trusted that God was their strength, and he did not fail them.

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[a] from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

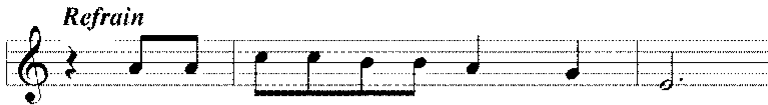
²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

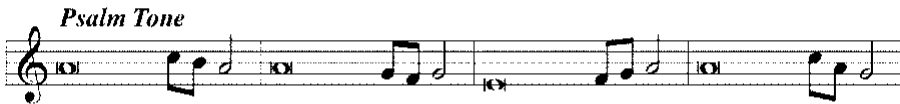
Psalm 37 CWS



We com - mit our-selves to you, O Lord.



Your faith - ful - ness en - dures for - ev - er.



Do not fret because of evil men
or be envious of those who do wrong;
for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.

Refrain

Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Refrain

I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.
Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

For the LORD loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.
The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of God's strength made perfect in weakness. The majority of them did not come from the upper crust of society or the ranks of the learned. God, however, chose them. Paul's list of God's chosen ones fits well with Jesus' description of the blessed ones in the Gospel. God chooses the losers of this world, not the winners; he chooses the weak, not the strong, so that there is no doubt as to the nature of his one-sided grace. The weaker we are, the more ready we are to trust in God's strength and boast in the work he does in us.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”^[Jer 9:24] (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news.
Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 5.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the world upside down. He calls blessed the people this world never would. He calls blessed people that the world would use as doormats! The world praises the brash, the strong, and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others see as weak or stupid. To live this kind of blessedness requires a deep trust in the Lord's strength and a long-term view of life. Jesus calls us blessed even in circumstances like mourning and persecution, because he is looking beyond the troubles of this world to the reward that is waiting for the people of God. Like reading the last chapter of a book, Jesus takes the mystery out of a life filled with

sorrow by showing us the end, the outcome of life lived trusting in God's strength. All the weak children of God can rejoice and be glad—even now—because our reward will be great!.

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

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 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 children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Seek Where You May to Find a Way CW 395



1 Seek where you may To find a way
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay;
3 Seek him a - lone, Who did a - tone,
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright,



That leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is
None can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers
Who did your souls de - liv - er; Oh, seek him
Je - sus, you are for - ev - er. Not wealth or



stilled; On Christ I build— He is the
 failed; This man pre - vailed, The God - Man,
 first, All you who thirst For grace that
 pride Or aught be - side Our bond of



one foun - da - tion. His Word is sure; His
 and none oth - er. The Ser - vant - Lord Our
 fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry need Seek
 love shall sev - er. You are my Lord; Your



works en - dure. He will o'er - throw My
 life re - stored. We're jus - ti - fied, For
 him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart He
 pre - cious Word Shall be my guide What -



ev - 'ry foe; Through him I more than con - quer.
 he has died, The guilt - less for the guilt - y.
 will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
 e'er be - tide. Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635, abr.; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.
 Tune: SUCH, WER DA WILL (447 447 44 447) Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646, alt.

Sermon

Daniel 3:13-27

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
 died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from
 the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the
 Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
 Amen.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Be Seated

Hymn

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus CW 446:5-6

5 I am trust - ing you for pow - er; You
 can nev - er fail. Words which you your -
 self shall give me Must pre - vail.

6 I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
 Never let me fall.
 I am trusting you forever
 And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.

Tune: STEPHANOS (85 83) Henry W. Baker, 1821–77.