

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Jan 29, 2023
9:30 a.m.



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. 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

Welcome to Worship

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God’s mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: To Be Your Presence ELW 546

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,
alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,
alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,
alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† 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.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-31

To put this reading into context:

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

Hear now the reading:

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 the 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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15 (read responsively)

¹O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

²Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

³who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

⁴in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who revere the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

⁵who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation:**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† **Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

To put this reading into context:

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children’s Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When was a time in your life when God brought forth a blessing out of a challenge? Not necessarily that the challenge itself was the

blessing, but that God brought forth new life in the midst of challenging circumstances. What was that blessing?

† Hymn of the Day: Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710

- 1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.
- 3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,

our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

† Prayers of Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.


Cultivate authentic community in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to support one another and boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need especially Helen, Jae, Jeff,

	<p>Oakley, Andrew, Jamie, Willie, Char, Jen; Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Remind this congregation of your saving acts. Help us to remember how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p>

<p><i>the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p>	
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Rise, Shine, You People! ELW 665 v 1</p> <p>1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.</p> <p><small>Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.</small></p>	
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.</p>	
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>	

	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Come and taste the joy of God!</p>
	<p>† Communion</p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."</i></p> <p><i>Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.</i></p> <p><i>Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.</i></p>
	<p>Communion Hymn: One Bread, One Body ELW 496</p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p>One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless,</p>

	<p>and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. <i>Refrain</i> 2 Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. <i>Refrain</i> 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. <i>Refrain</i> <p>Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939 Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.</p>
	<p>† Post-Communion Table Blessing</p> <p>May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.</p>
<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p>† Blessing</p> <p>The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ‡ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk with You ELW 818</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true; tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

*The dismissal
sends us out as
Christ's Body—
fed, nourished,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, and
our service
begins!*

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for
coffee hour immediately following worship.*

Coffee hour discussion question:

**Describe a blessing you've experienced recently, or an experience of
feeling blessed. Who did God use as the agent(s) of that blessing?**

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Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Joan Zeager
Ushers: Larry and Chris Jacobson	Counters: Larry Jacobson Joan Zeager
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski
Livestream: Sean Lanter	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners) Pam Lanter (Primary) JoAnne Wancatas (Middle Schoolers)



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Jan 29, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Jen Mitterholzer, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Andrew Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating their birthday:
Marie Sternad (Jan 30)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:
Hannah Alusheff (Feb 2)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by Sharon Hollowell in memory of Lin Brehmer. Sharon says, "On January 23, 2023, we lost our Best Friend in the Whole World."

On Wednesday, Feb 1, Dr. Dirt (aka Emil Girod, MOW volunteer and gardener extraordinaire) will present a gardening class at 7:00 p.m. in Good Soil's Fellowship Hall. Topics for the class include seed ordering, seed starting, and Emil's 100 gardening tips. Cost for the class is \$25 and 100% of the proceeds will support Meals on Wheels and the wonderful service they provide to homebound and elderly people in Rocky River and Lakewood.

Please RSVP to 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org. We hope to see you there!

“Seeds” is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God’s action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It’s a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jan 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 1030 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Thurs, Feb 2	Confirmation Class – Bethesda on the Bay	5:30 p.m.
Sat, Feb 4	Ladies’ Breakfast – Gene’s Place, Kamms Corner	9:00 a.m.
Sun, Feb 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Baptism of Otto Mitterholzer • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Sat, Feb 11	ELCA Anti-Racism Conversation via Zoom	10:30 a.m.
Sun, Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Celebrating Good Soil’s 5th Birthday and Welcome of New Members • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tues, Feb 14	HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY! Good Soil Executive Team Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Sun, Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship – Transfiguration Sunday and Saying “farewell” to the Alleluia • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Tues, Feb 21	Good Soil Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Wed, Feb 22	ASH WEDNESDAY In-Person and Livestream Worship	6:30 p.m.

