

*blessed are they?*



*4th Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 1, 2026*

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**1105 N. Washington Blvd.**  
**Ogden, UT 84404**  
**801.782.2810**

## Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 65 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;**  
**However, please know the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is**  
**available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

*Welcome to Worship*

## *Opening Song*

## We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light!  
2 Come! O - pen your heart!  
3 Sing! Sing a new song!

Shine with the joy and the love of the  
Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

A musical staff in treble clef, one sharp key signature, and common time. The staff consists of eight measures. Measure 1: A quarter note on A. Measure 2: A quarter note on G. Measure 3: A quarter note on F. Measure 4: A half note on E. Measure 5: A quarter note on D. A quarter note on C. Measure 6: A quarter note on B. A quarter note on A. Measure 7: A half note on G. A quarter note on F. Measure 8: A quarter note on E. A half note on D.

live in the free-dom of the cit-y of God.  
ha-tred and blind-ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
sis-ters and broth-ers . . . u-nit-ed in love.

### Refrain

We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to

love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

## *Confession and Forgiveness*

*P* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**All** Amen.

*P* Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**All** you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

*P* The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**All** Amen.

## Prayer for This Day



All Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.



Women O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my



Men O God, I call to you, come to me



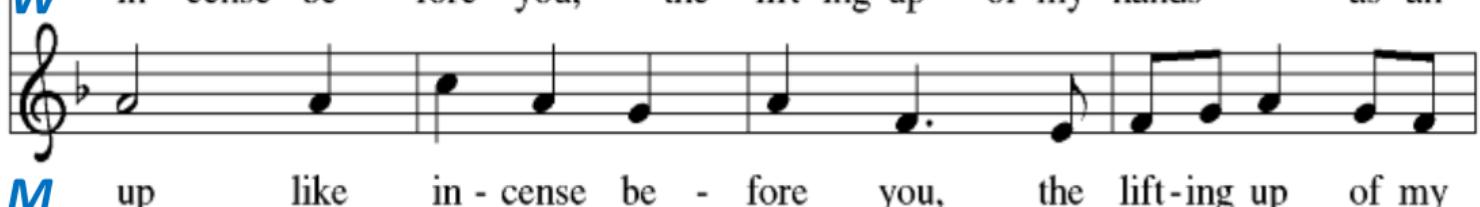
W voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like



M now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



W in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



M up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

W of-fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;

M hands as an of-fer-ing to you. Keep

W deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

M watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

W bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

M love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

W fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

M in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an



**W** you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of



**M** of-fer-ing to you. All praise to the



**W** life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.



**M** God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the



**W** Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



**M** Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



**W** lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.



**M** fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Text: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141

Music: Marty Haugen

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*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

### *A Reading from Micah, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For 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.

<sup>5</sup> O 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.”

<sup>6</sup> “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?

<sup>7</sup> Will 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?”

<sup>8</sup> He 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?

*Micah 6:1-8*

WA Word of God, Word of Hope.

**All Thanks be to God!**

*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.*

***A Reading from 1 Corinthians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter***

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider 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.

<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that

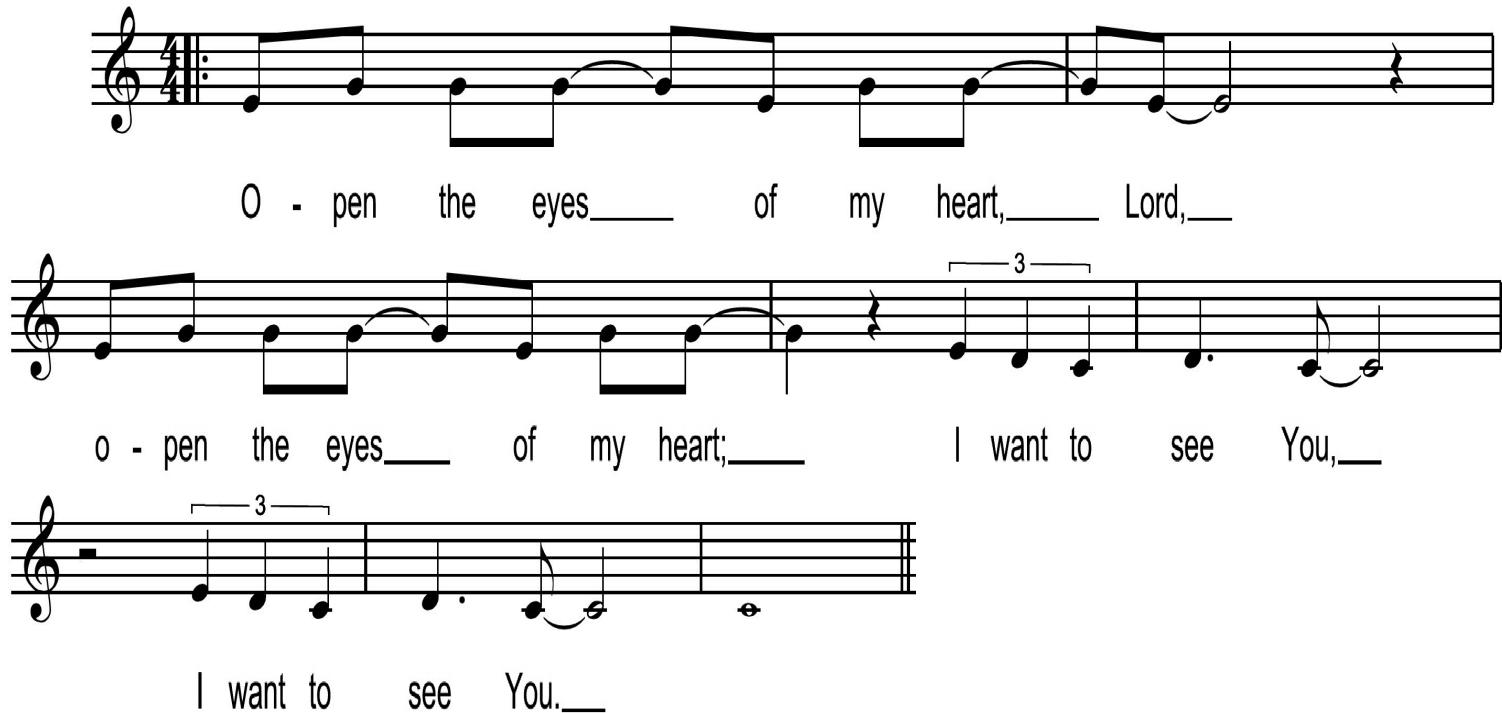
no one might boast in the presence of God.<sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

WA Word of God, Word of Life.

**All** Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation* | Please stand in body or spirit.



Music notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The music is in common time (4/4) and treble clef. The lyrics are: "O - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart,\_\_\_\_ Lord,\_\_\_\_" followed by a repeat sign. The next line is: "o - pen the eyes\_\_\_\_ of my heart;\_\_\_\_ I want to see You,\_\_\_\_" with a three-measure repeat sign above the "I want to" part. The final line is: "I want to see You." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth) and rests.

*Gospel Reading* |

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

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

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*Matthew 5:1-12*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

*Message*

**Pr. DanaLee Simon**

# Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blest Are They

1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the  
2 Blest are they, the lowly ones; . . . they shall in -  
3 Blest are they . . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
4 Blest are they . . . . who seek peace; . . . they are the  
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
her - it the earth. Blest are they, who  
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
chil - dren of God. Blest are they, who  
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled. **to refrain**  
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill. **to verse 3**  
pure of heart; they . . . . shall see God. **to refrain**  
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs. **to verse 5**  
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see. **to refrain**

*Refrain*

Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king-dom of God!

### *Apostles' Creed*

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## *Installation of Council and Transition Team*

*P* The following persons have been elected to be the 2026 Church Council. Please come forward:

*Cassie Barker—Keith Crater—Edith Cryts—Cynthia Day—David Filanda—Sherry Fritschle—Maria Schulte—John Warkentin—Katie Young—Sharen Kamp*

The following persons, having been chosen to be the transition team. Please come forward:

*Jim Craig—Dorothy Harman—Shelie Ingram—Kelly Martin—Nancy Otto—Eric Refsdal—Russ Smith*

Saint Paul writes:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability for some particular service to everyone. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

You have been elected or appointed to a position of leadership and trust in this congregation and we ask for your commitment to the values and mission we share in Christ.

To our Church Council—

- \* Do you promise to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus in the governance of this church?
- \* Will you notice and nurture the gifts, questions, and ideas of the people you represent in this role?
- \* Will you communicate with proactive and faithful transparency for the sake of the whole church?
- \* Will you acknowledge the unknown and unknowable about being church, practicing honesty, humility, and courage in times of change?
- \* Do you promise to discern and do what is right, even when it disrupts our status quo, and especially when it asks something difficult of us for the sake of our neighbors?

*P* People of God, do you promise to support our council leaders with your blessing and prayers?

**All We will and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*P* To our Transition Team—

You are to reflect on who we are as a congregation, illuminating for us who we have been and who we are, so that we may boldly and authentically live into the future.

You are to help us to come to terms with our history, and to discover the new identity we are currently living into.

You are to help us manage the shifts in leadership of our lay volunteers, and strengthen our sense of being church together.

And you are to commit to our new future, inspiring us to do the same.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I now ask you:

\* Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the transition team?

*Transition Tm*      We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

*P* People of God, I ask you, will you support the transition team with your prayers, your words, and your actions?

Will you engage in their questions, share your thoughts with kindness, and help them in every way to do the work we are entrusting to them?

**All We will and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*P* Let us pray,

Equipping God, give us new eyes to see your vision and ears to hear your plan for this community of faith. When we lead and serve with confidence in your bold grace, our labor is not in vain.

Bless each of these leaders with courage and kindness, patience and tenacity, good humor, and great hope, so that together, we are able to do immeasurably more than we could have asked for or imagined on our own.

**All Amen**

*P* I now declare you installed as the Church Council and Transition Team of this congregation. God bless you and your work together.

## Prayers of the People

You may be Seated

WA As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

Please stand in body or spirit.

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the Peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that Peace through sign language.

P Christ become Peace with you.

**All And also with you.**

## Offering

You may be Seated

Offering plates are available at the entrance to receive your offerings.

A musical score for a hymn tune. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines.

## *Offertory Prayer*

*P* God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you.

**All** Use what we have gathered to feed the hungry,  
house the poor and embrace all with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

## *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

*P* The Lord be with you

**All** And also with you.

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All** We lift them to the Lord.

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*P* Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

In the night in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;  
broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Let us together pray as Jesus taught us:

**All** 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.

### *The Invitation*

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

**Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant**

You may be Seated

# Communion Songs

## God Of The Poor

Words and Music by  
Graham Kendrick



1 Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your  
2 Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the  
3 Re - fuge from cruel\_\_\_\_ wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for



suff - 'ring world, this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,  
crafts - men, trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos - sessed,  
sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,



jus - tice, joy, peace, sun -rise to sun -set Your king - dom in -  
rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't  
scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His cross for the



crease. 2, 3 speak.  
pain.



God of the poor, friend of the weak,



give us com - pas - sion we pray, melt our cold

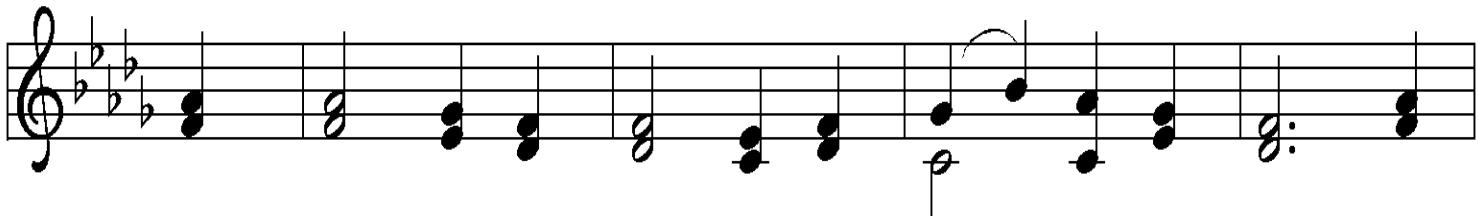


hearts, let tears fall like rain. Come change our love.



from a spark to a flame. 1 D.C.

# When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

## *Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

## *Post Communion Blessing and Prayer*

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All** Amen

*P* Let us pray,  
Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**All** In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

You may be Seated

## *Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements*

### *Benediction*

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever.

**All** Amen

# Sending

## All The People Said Amen

Words and Music by  
Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan  
and Paul Moak

1. You are not a - lone  
2. If you're rich or poor,  
if you are lone - ly. When you feel a - fraid, you're not the on - ly.  
well, it don't mat - ter. Weak \_ or strong, you know love is what we're af - ter.  
We are all the same, in need of mer - cy, \_ to be for - giv - en and be  
We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. \_ God knows we stum - ble and fall,  
free. It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need. \_  
and He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.  
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa. \_ And all the peo - ple said, "A -  
-men." Give thanks to the Lord, \_ for His love \_ nev - er ends. \_  
last time to Coda ♩ 1.  
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."  
2. men." Bless-ed are \_ the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless-ed are \_

the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless-ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an -

D.S. al Coda

oth - er start, for theirs is the king - dom, the king-dom of God. \_\_\_\_\_

Coda

ENDING

- men." And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

## Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**All** Thanks be to God.



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Readings for next Sunday,  
February 8<sup>th</sup>

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

**Psalm:**

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

**Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

**Gospel:**

Matthew 5:13-20

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