

The Beatitudes: Those who Mourn  
1.16.22

Opening Liturgy

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**As the day rises to meet the sun**

**Glory 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.**

What's Happening This Week

- Want to be in the know? Text BUMCSM to 84576 for text alerts
- No Sunday night this week – Join us next week for small groups!
- Wednesday Nights are back! Middle School, High School Girls, and High School Guys – join us for dinner at 6:30 and study from 7-8.

Scripture Reading:

**O Word made flesh, speak through us : words that bring new life.**

*Matthew 5:7*

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

Jesus said:

<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 be shown 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 because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

*Isaiah 61:1-32*

Here's the Deal:

*Recap:* The Beatitudes is the title given to a special sermon from Jesus called the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus introduced a radically different way of thinking. After reading the above scripture, what does this make you think of? In what ways is this counter cultural to our everyday lives? If you can follow these teachings, you will definitely stand out as being different – there's no question about it. The promised outcomes of this life seem too good to be true.

This week, we will be focusing on the second paradox: Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. We usually think of mourning when there is a funeral or death. Here, as the first paradox, there is an implied, though not an expressed, limitation. The "mourning" is not the sorrow of the world that means "death" (aka failure, suffering, and the consequences of sin), but the sorrow which flows out in the tears that cleanse, the mourning over sin itself and the stain which it has left upon the soul. The repentance and the act of repenting from failure, suffering, and the consequences of sin. The overturned "They shall be comforted" seems to be right, but can be so hard. We cannot separate the promise of comfort from uncomfortable. When you are always comfortable, do you need this? Because of how our world is, we are always in need of comfort. Comfort from growing up and making mistakes – the real key here is the future. We run away from the uncomfortable because we do not know when it will end. What if you are told – promised that discomfort will end. It will be eased? What if you trusted that promise? What would happen then?

The next time you worry about your future, remember that God has already taken care of the ultimate future and God wants you to know it. When you know this simple fact, you will experience a new place and hope for living today.

Prayer for Others:

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors. Amen**