

Sermon Notes – November 2, 2025
The Holy Gospel of St. Luke 6: 20-31
Peace Lutheran Church
“Give Thanks For All the Saints”

The beatitudes recorded in the Gospel of Luke are not so well-known nor quoted as often as their version in the Gospel of Matthew. Luke seems to place them “on the nose,” so to speak, giving the sense that these words are laser-focused on each and every person who hears them. Where Matthew begins each of the beatitude blessings with “Blessed are those who...”, Luke uses a more personal “Blessed are you who...”. There's something about Luke's language that lays things a bit too bare for comfort.

With so much second-person language, directed at each of us, we can all hear at least some small part of our lives in the words. For those who live in complete comfort, such that many cannot even imagine the experience of the words of the Beatitudes, there is no doubt we still find times in our lives when our weeping leaves us emotionally and spiritually poor. We hear something for each one of us as Christ sends out His fourfold blessings of what the promised kingdom of God will look like.

But lest we forget, this is an uncomfortable test as well. It is easier to listen to Matthew, as Matthew does not take the turn Luke does. While the fourfold blessings of Luke speak a word of grace and hope to each of us, the later verses of the beatitudes from Luke's Gospel speak to us as the words of Christ with four mirror-image curses (“Woe to you...”). It is a flinching word to hear, one that might make us return rather quickly to the “woe-less” verses of Matthew's beatitudes!

But this is the Gospel of Luke in all its glory. Luke has a very particular viewpoint and lens, one that is echoed in quieter tones in the other three gospels. With all its descriptive beauty and detailed potency, Luke's gospel gives us an image that is nothing short of world-changing. Recall Mary's Magnificat, Jesus' from the scroll of Isaiah, and the reversal of places between the rich man and Lazarus.

As Christ speaks words that are both the blessings and the words that curse, we hear that promise. Those who have been cursed by this

world will be blessed. Nevertheless, parts of these Lukan verses are quite harsh. Poverty often takes many forms: spiritual, physical, and emotional.

This is our witness on the great day of the saints: Those who have lived and died in the Lord God are gathered together in the kingdom prophesied by Daniel, through the promised inheritance of Christ. Those who still dwell here continue the word faithfully, loving our neighbors and sharing what we have!