

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

We Preach Christ Crucified

February 1 & 2, 2014

AS WE GATHER

“Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.” Boasting is something that mankind loves to do when he does something good. Trash talk in the NFL, a child throwing their video game win into their friends face, talking about what “I” have accomplished are all examples of our human pride. We boast in our human wisdom and our human strength. In pride our sinful nature can look at the cross of Christ as foolishness and weakness; indeed, this is the way those who are perishing view the supreme sacrifice of God’s Son. Yet, “. . . the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.” (1 Cor. 1:25) Therefore, we preach Christ crucified and glory in His cross as supreme wisdom and strength.

8:00 PRESERVICE ANTHEM *“Built on a Rock”* Jay Althouse *ML Choir*

8:00 PRELUDE *“Jesus Shall Reign”* James Curnow *ML Brass Choir*

10:30 ANTHEM *“Here for You”* Cliff Duren *ML Troubadours*

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT *Julie Avila / Elizabeth Ministries*

*“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart.” Isaiah 40:11”*

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #549 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David’s line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

8:00 – Setting by Walter L. Pelz

Introduction: Organ and Brass

Stanza 1: Congregation, Organ, and Brass

Stanza 2: Women and Organ

Stanza 3: CHOIR ONLY

Stanza 4: Men and Organ

Stanza 5: CHOIR ONLY

Stanza 6: Congregation and Organ

Fanfare: Brass

Stanza 7: Congregation, Choir, Organ, and Brass

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Since we are assembled here to hear God's Word, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of Christ, let us think of our unworthiness, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and realize also that by our own strength we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in His infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and say: God be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

People: Amen.

HYMN #705 "The Man Is Ever Blessed" Stanzas 1 & 3

The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'n-ly fruit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together:.

People: O God, you know the spiritual dangers we face and the trials and temptations that come from the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. Visit and support us with your Word of Truth, that by your grace we may grow

through what we suffer; for our sins; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM of Amelia Grace Bailey

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Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Micah 6:1–8 (*What does the Lord require of you?*) Listen to what the Lord says: "Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. Hear, O mountains, the Lord's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord." With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my first born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul: He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (*The Word of the Cross*) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. Brothers, 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. 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. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. 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. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

5:00 ANTHEM*“Speak, O Lord”* Lloyd Larson

Choir

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your Holy Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory. O teach us, Lord, obedience, holy reverence, true humility. Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity. Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority. Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us: truth unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we’ll stand on your promises; and by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory. Amen, amen, amen.

8:00 ANTHEM*“I Will Exalt You”* Lloyd Larson

ML Choir

10:30 ANTHEM*“Glory to Your Name”* Cliff Duren

ML Choir

(Rise)

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12 (*The Beatitudes*) Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**SERMON HYMN #728****“How Firm a Foundation”**

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’rign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

SERMON “Great Boasts and the Foolishness of the Cross” 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(Rise)

CATECHISM (*The Fourth Petition*)

Pastor: Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean?

People: God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Pastor: What is meant by daily bread?

People: Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, a good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. Greet your fellow worshippers after the service!

8:00 MUSIC DURING OFFERING*“Holy, Holy, Holy”* Stephen Bulla

ML Brass Choir

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you sent your Son, Jesus, to suffer the pains of the cross that we might be your redeemed children.

People: Grant us to trust in Christ for forgiveness that, looking to Him by faith, we might always find in Him our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

Pastor: Gracious Father, you placed your Son into the home of Mary and Joseph and through their care presented Him in the temple. Bless all our homes, that they might be places where your truth is taught and confessed.

People: Make all husbands courageous and compassionate in their love for their wives. Grant all wives grace to submit to and respect their husbands. Bless the work of parents and grandparents as they instruct children in your Word.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. We rejoice with the Bailey family as Amelia Grace is baptized into Christ and Jack and Gladys as they celebrate the birth of their grandchild, Elissa Kay. We give thanks also for the 61st anniversary of John and Lois and for the Avila family celebrating Grace's birthday.

People: Make us ever mindful that all our blessings come from your hand and fill us with the spirit of thankfulness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as your Son has become a merciful and faithful high priest, making propitiation for the sins of all people, hear His intercession for His Bride, the Church, for those who suffer afflictions of body or mind, sicknesses and sorrows. We remember especially Dorothy, Warren, Ruth, Corinne, Virginia, Dorothy, Sarah and Joe.

People: Grant your children faith in the face of trials, patience and perseverance in times of affliction, and the hope in Christ that will never disappoint.

Pastor: King of kings and Lord of lords, we pray for all those entrusted with authority on this earth. Grant them wisdom to rule in just and righteous ways. Grant them humility to acknowledge that they serve you as they serve those under their authority.

People: Bless all our leaders with diligence in their duties, compassion for those they serve, protect, and instruct, and a humble faith in the Lord of all.

Pastor: Everlasting Lord, your Son told us that trials, tribulation, and even persecution would come upon those who follow in His ways. Give steadfastness and endurance to our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer threats of bodily harm or death because of the zeal and truth of their confession.

People: Grant repentance to those who hate your Church. Hinder their plans and thwart their evil intentions. And grant your people to love those who hate them and to bless those who curse them.

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

8:00 & 10:30 THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

5:00 & 10:30 HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother’s tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ’s holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow’r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev’ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

8:00 HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” *Sung with the choir*

(Setting by Kevin Hildebrand)

Introduction: Organ and Brass

Stanza 1: Congregation, Choir, Organ, and Brass

Stanza 2: CHOIR ONLY

Stanza 3: Women and Organ

Stanza 4: CHOIR, Organ and Trumpet

Stanza 5: Congregation, Choir, organ, and Brass

10:30 ANTHEM

“Holy” Cliff Duren

ML Choir

HYMN “Blest the Children of Our God” *(LW #370)*

Blest the children of our God, They are bought with Christ’s own blood;
They are ransomed from the grave, Life eternal they will have:
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity!

They are justified by grace, They enjoy the Savior’s peace;
All their sins are washed away, They will stand in God’s great day:
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity!

They are lights upon the earth, Children of a heav’n-ly birth;
Once with God, with Jesus one; Glory is in them begun:
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity!

HYMN #727 “On Eagles’ Wings”

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain: *And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings.
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day; Though
thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

For to His angels He’s given a command To guard you in all of your ways; Upon their
hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,

People: you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Pastor: O God, as you have fed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven, grant, we implore you, that the body and blood of your Son

may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and be with you all.

People: Amen.

5:00 CLOSING HYMN #921 “On What Has Now Been Sown”

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.
O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home. E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

8:00 CHORAL BENEDICTION “God Be In My Head” *Kenneth T. Kosche* *ML Choir*

10:30 CHORAL BENEDICTION “Go Ye Now in Peace” *Joyce Eilers* *ML Troubadours*

8:00 POSTLUDE “Way Beyond the Blue (Do Lord)” *Stephen Bulla* *ML Brass Choir*

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Dalen Heinzen, Marty Osell, Jane Adams
Acolytes	Noah Zimmermann, Abigail Fellenbaum, Abbie Moravec
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
Martin Luther H.S. Choir Director	Mr. Timothy S. Franz
Martin Luther H.S. Troubadour	Miss Jessica Kindschi