

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENDORA
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
January 29, 2023

As We Gather

Today’s Old Testament Reading is the basis for the reproaches, traditionally spoken on Good Friday: “Thus says the LORD: What have I done to you, O My people . . .” We know that, like God’s ancient people, we fail to live in ways pleasing to Him. In terms of the Epistle, we reflect the world around us in its false wisdom, rather than rejoicing in God’s great folly in sacrificing His Son for us. And so, we pay more attention to the beginning of each Beatitude rather than finding solace in the reason for the blessing coming with that circumstance or action. But the Law-filled “do” in that list is covered by the “done” in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. He is the only One who fulfilled all our heavenly Father’s will. And the Good News is that He did it in our place! He took all the Father’s reproaches, all our worldliness, and all our failures to the cross. The great epiphany there was our Lord’s showing the world God’s boundless love for us. How shall we respond?

PREPARATION

837 Lift High the Cross *sts. ref–6*

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified, Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*
- 5 Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell, Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *1 Corinthians 1:18, 30*

- P The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
- C **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
- P He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
- C **whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.**

Confession and Absolution

- P Let us go to the throne of God’s grace, confessing our sins and asking His mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.**
- P We cannot repay God for our offenses, but He has given us His only Son to pay for every sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

WORD

Introit *Psalm 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
Glory be 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.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Kyrie

- C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn of Praise

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us, With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones, That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given, Blessings countless as the sand
To the_unthankful and the evil, With Your own unsparing hand.

- 2
- Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You, Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness, Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed, 'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3
- Wondrous honor You have given, To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?
- 4
- Lord of glory, You have bought us, With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones, That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

Salutation

- P
- The Lord be with you.
- C
- And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P
- Let us pray.
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.
- C
- Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;
- P
- through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C
- Amen.

Old Testament Reading Micah 6:1–8

- ¹Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For 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.

⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,

and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

- ⁶“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?
⁷Will 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?”
⁸He has told you, O man, 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?

L

This is the Word of the Lord.

C

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- P
- Praise the LORD, all nations!
- C
- Extol Him, all peoples!
- P
- For great is His steadfast love toward us,
- C
- and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
- P
- Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
- C
- bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

- ¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing

things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse *Matthew 5:3*

P Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:1–12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

2 As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty, Held in solemn trust will be.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.

By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing, That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

Sermon

Apostles’ Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service *sts. 1, 4*

1 Lord, whose love through humble service, Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship, Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose, Ev’ry gift that You impart.

4 Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom, May Your mercy know and live.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For those who mourn, [*including . . .*], that by their faith in Christ’s resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God’s peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bless them for Jesus’ sake, O Lord.**

P For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ’s having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.

C **In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

C **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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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