

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday, January 29, 2023 - 10:45 a.m.

As We Gather

Like the Old Testament people, we don't always live in ways pleasing to God. We reflect the world around us and its false wisdom more readily than we rejoice in God's great folly in sacrificing His Son for us. That's why, when we read the Beatitudes, we often find ourselves caught up in the trials and troubles they describe more than we find solace in the blessings they promise. But Jesus is a beautiful model for us as we read them, for he does not shy from the trials these beatitudes describe. For our sake, He fulfilled our heavenly Father's will, receiving the full cup of suffering and death. 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. Our Lord showed the world God's boundless love for us. How should we respond?

Red Connection Pads

Welcome! Please add your name to the connection pad at your seating location or record your attendance online at clcs.org/attendance or the QR code on the right.



A Note on Offerings As an act of worship and thanksgiving, we offer to God what He has first given to us: the first and best of our time, talents, and financial gifts. Donation boxes are located by each entry door or if you would like to contribute online, with either a onetime or ongoing gift, please use clcs.org/give or the QR code to the left.

Church Nursery (for families with children 0 to 5 years old).

Our church nursery is located to your left as you exit the sanctuary. Please note that parental supervision is required. The nursery is equipped with a live stream of the service, so parents can participate within service while tending to their children's needs.

P = Pastor; L = Worship Leader; C = Congregation

Welcome (Please stand)

Song

“God So Loved”

1 Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

2 Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

3 Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love *(Repeat)*

Chorus 3

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save *(Chorus 2)*

4 Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down
At the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world

Welcome

Song “Raise a Hallelujah”

- 1 I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

Chorus

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive

- 2 I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me (*Chorus*)

(Bridge 1)

Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)

(Bridge 2)

Sing a little louder (in the presence of my enemies)
Sing a little louder (louder than the unbelief)
Sing a little louder (my weapon is a melody)
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me) (*Chorus x2*)

Ending

I raise a hallelujah (*x4*)

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Song “Graves Into Gardens”

- 1 I searched the world, But it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise And treasures that fade
Are never enough.
Then You came along And put me back together.
And every desire Is now satisfied Here in Your love.

Confession of Our Need for God's Grace & Announcement of God's Forgiveness

Song

"Graves into Gardens"

Chorus

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

- 2 I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord,
You've seen them all
And You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
There's not a place Your mercy and grace,
Won't find me again. (*Chorus*)

Bridge

You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory
You're the only One who can

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only One who can
You're the only One who can (*Chorus x2*)

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Special Music

"Prince of Peace"

Calvary 3rd-5th Grade Choir

Children's Message (*Please be seated*)

✠ The Word of the Lord ✠

First Reading

"Blessed are..."

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And 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. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Second Reading

“The Foolishness of God”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where 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? ²¹ For 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Our Weakness is God’s Strength”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon Series “In Christ Alone: Jesus & the Church” (Week 3)

Listen to past sermons or share them with a friend at clcs.org/sermons.

Song

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

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|--|---|
| 1 All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia | 3 All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia |
| 2 Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit Three-in-One
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia | 4 He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Then who shall fall on bended knee
All creatures of our God and King
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia |

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Our Shared Confession of Faith *(Please stand)*

The Apostles' Creed

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 everlasting. Amen.

Our Prayers

[P: Let's pray.

Dear Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit, whether because of outside oppression or personal problems. Remind them of their heavenly citizenship, that they have a future where their problems are no more. Give them joy even now in that future hope.

Lord, we also pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, both those on our hearts and those we name now, [including . . .]. Let their faith in Jesus Christ's resurrection promises comfort them even now.

We also pray for those who are meek, those who thirst for righteousness. God, raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all.

Lord, be with all those who reflect your mercy and peace into our world. Whether they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around them or share God's peace with our conflicted world, we ask that you would keep them strong in faith and bless them for Jesus' sake.

Lord, we lift up any and all who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Assure them of the righteousness of their cause, and help them to endure their trials through that assurance.

Finally, we are so grateful and give you thanks for all the blessings we enjoy in this life. We rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us.

A copy of today's prayers is available online for use during your daily prayers (clcs.org/this-week).

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Song

“How Great Is Our God”

1 The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

2 And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb (*Chorus*)

Chorus How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Bridge Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
(x2 then Chorus x2)

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Sending

✝ LEADING OUR WORSHIP ✝

Preacher: Pastor Josh Reifsteck

Worship Leader: Pastor Sam Troemel

Musicians: Pastor Sam & Molly Troemel; Sydney Redding; David Mills; Lai Lian; CLS 3rd-5th
Grade Choir

Acolyte: Ethan Harmon

Text for Reflection this week:

“In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:7b-10).

For Prayer & Reflection:

Is there anything in your life which might be described as a thorn in your flesh? How does Satan torment you?

Meditate on your own sins, and hear again God’s message:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

What does it mean that Christ’s power rests on the weak?

How can God’s power be made perfect in your weakness?