

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 29, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING PRAISE: Psalm 71

“How Firm a Foundation” – Blue Hymnal #411

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, oh, 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.

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'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in my bosom be borne.

(“How Firm a Foundation”, setting copyright 1967 The Bethany press, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518)

L: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;

C: Let me never be put to shame.

L: In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;

C: Turn your ear to me and save me.

L: Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;

C: Give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

“Our Confidence Is In the Lord”



3 Fmaj7 G C
 source of our sal - va - tion. Rest is found in

6 F C F G
 God a-lone, the au - thor of cre - a - tion.

9 Am Em/G F C
 We will not fear the e - vil day,

11 Am Em/G F G
 be-cause we have a ref - uge.

13 Am Em/G F C
 In ev - 'ry cir - cum-stance we say

15 F G C/E
 our hope is built on Je - sus. God is our for-tress; we will

18 Dm7 C/E
 nev - er be shak - en. God is our for-tress; we will

20 F C/E
 nev - er be shak - en. God is our for-tress; we will

22 Dm7 C/E
 nev - er be shak - en. God is our for-tress; we will

24 F G
 nev-er be shak - en. We will put our trust in

27 Am Am/G F
 God. We will put our
 30 G 1. C/E Dm7
 trust in God.
 33 C/E Dm7 2. C
 Our God.

"Our Confidence Is in the Lord" by Noel Richards & Tricia Richards, copyright 1989 Kingsway's Thankyou Music., CCLI License #921494.)

L: Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

C: **For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.**

L: From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb.

C: **I will ever praise you.**

L: I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge.

C: **My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.**

"Rock of Ages" – Blue Hymnal #362

**Rock of ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
 Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
 Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands.
 Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
 All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
 Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
 Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
 When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

- L: Let us pray. O God, in the midst of the cacophony of voices that crush our spirit and deny our calling, voices that say, "Who do you think you are?", we come to hear your voice of affirmation; we come to hear your voice calling us to be and do what you have called us to be and do.
- C: Let this time of worship quiet our fears, soothe our bruised souls, and energize us for ministry in and with your beloved world. Let faith abide. Let hope abide. Let love abide— here in this sanctuary, here in our community, here in our world, but most of all, here in us. Amen.**

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE LESSON: I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

L: And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

C: If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

L: If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

ALL: Love is patient, love is kind.

L: It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

C: It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,

L: It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

ALL: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

L: It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

C: Love never fails.

L: But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

C: For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

L: And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

ALL: But the greatest of these is love.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter four.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

MESSAGE: "Love Actually" – Pastor Bill Hugo

SONG OF THE DAY: "The Gift of Love"

Voice

Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
Come, Spir - it come, our hearts con - trol. Our spir - its

6

gift to all in - spire, And have not love; my words are
so my love pro - fess, But not be giv'n by love with -
long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev' - ry

12

vain as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
in, the pro - fit soon turns strange - ly thin.
deed. By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

("The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson, copyright 1972 Hope Publishing, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let's confess our sin and our need for God's mercy and grace. *(Time of silence for individual confession)*

L: God of great expectations, you know how easy it is for us to make excuses for inactivity. We love to run and hide when a task is set before us. We look at the expectation and think that we don't have the abilities, strength, or wisdom to accomplish this task. We think, too often, that we are doing these things all by ourselves. And we feel sorry for ourselves and angry that you expect so much from us.

C: **Forgive our ignorance, our stubbornness, and our stupidity, O Lord. Help us to understand that the opportunities for service that you offer to us also come with your abiding presence, love and support. It is your love which makes the impossible possible. Turn us around and place us back on the path of joyful service. Let our lives reflect the love that you give to us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Love in Christ" – Blue Hymnal #376

**Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving. May his will in us be done.**

**Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end.**

("Love In Christ", text by Dorothy Schulz, music by Ralph Schulz, copyright 1980 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

+ + +

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold