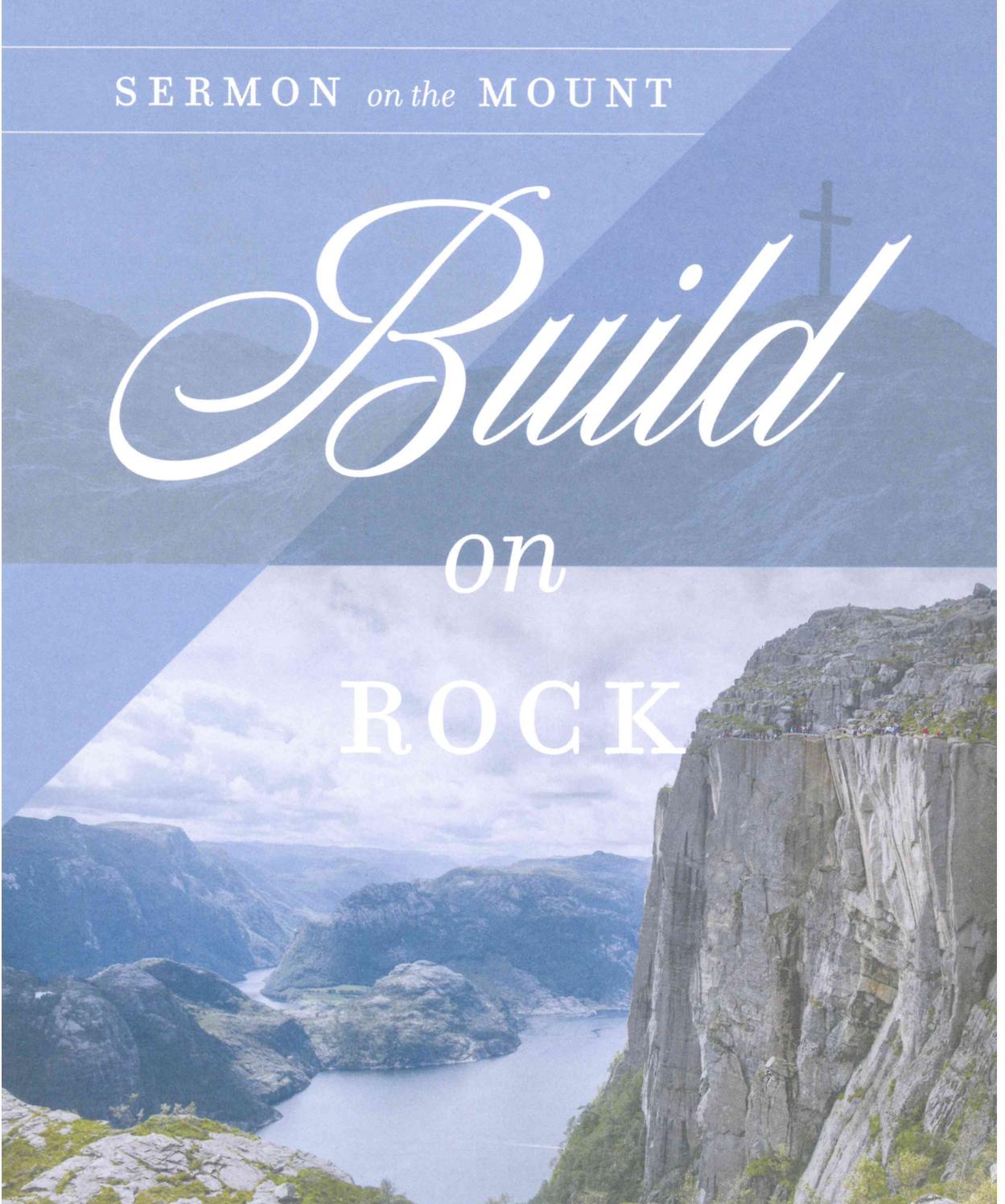


SERMON *on the* MOUNT

*Build*

*on*

ROCK





“Build on the Rock”

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

*The congregation gathers in silence.*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

*Please stand for portions of service marked with an asterisk (\*)*

### WELCOME

Pastor John Larson

### ELDER PRAYER

### \*INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

### \*HYMN

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB 440 v.1 & 6



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.

Grant that I in love and faith May the im-age cher-ish  
 May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav-ior,  
 Of Your suf-f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per-ish.  
 That I may in heav'n a-bove Sing Your praise for-ev-er.

Tune and text: Public domain

## **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** *(read by Pastor)* **Calvary**

The soldiers now had charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out of the city to a place called Skull Hill, in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they led him away, they laid hold on Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. On him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. Following him was a great company of people and of women who bewailed and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said,

"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck.' Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things with a green tree, what will happen with a dry one?"

There were also two others, criminals whom they led along to be put to death with him. When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave him wine mingled with gall to drink, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

It was the third hour, and there they crucified him.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The two criminals they also crucified with him—one on his right, the other on his left, with Jesus in the middle. The Scripture was then fulfilled which says, "And he was numbered with the transgressors."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they cast lots to divide his clothes and decide what each should take. They made four parts, one for each soldier. There remained his tunic, which was without seam, woven in one piece from the top to the bottom. They said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide who shall have it." The Scripture was thus fulfilled which says, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." These things the soldiers did and, sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

Over his head was put the charge against him. Pilate wrote the notice to be put on the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title was read by many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, "You should not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'This man said, I am the King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

People stood by, watching. Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." The thieves who were crucified with him also reviled him. And one of the criminals who hung there with him railed at him:

"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are getting what we deserve for what we have done; but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Near to the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to his disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of them that were standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus knew that all things were accomplished. Fulfilling the Scripture he said, "I thirst." There was a jar of wine standing there. One of them ran immediately to get a sponge. He filled it with wine, put it on a reed, held it up to his mouth, and gave it to him to drink.

Others said, "Wait and see if Elijah will come to save him."

When Jesus had received the wine, he cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" Then he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he died, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

All the people who had gathered to see the sight, when they saw what had happened, turned away beating their breasts. Those who had known him stood at a distance, as also the women who had followed him from Galilee. Among them was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

It was the day of Preparation before the Sabbath, and this was Passover Sabbath. Therefore, so that the bodies should not remain on the crosses during the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with him. But

when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. One who saw it is our witness, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth that you also may believe. These things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they pierced."

By this time evening had come. A respected member of the council, Joseph of Arimathea, was one who was looking for the kingdom of God, a good and righteous man who had not consented to their purpose and deed. He was a disciple of Jesus secretly, for he feared the Jews. Now he took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was astonished that he could be dead already. He called for the centurion and asked him whether Jesus was already dead. When he was assured by the centurion that it was so, Pilate granted Joseph the corpse and commanded that it be given over to him.

Joseph brought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus. Nicodemus came also, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. It was he who had first come to Jesus by night. They then took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, where no one had ever been buried. Joseph laid the body in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock, and rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were sitting there opposite the sepulcher and saw where he was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath day they rested according to the commandment.

On the next day, the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees went together to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command that the sepulcher be made secure until the third day to stop his disciples from coming and stealing him and saying to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' making the final deception worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go and make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a watch.

### **\*OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them

**People: will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock."**

Pastor: The rain fell.

**People: The floods came.**

Pastor: The winds blew and beat on that house.

**People: But it did not fall.**

Pastor: It had been built on the rock.

**People: A firm foundation.**

Pastor: Unshakeable and immovable.

**People: Solid and strong.**

Pastor: Lord, build us up on the rock of your Word.

**People: For your Word stands forever and is a firm foundation, unshakeable, immovable, solid and strong. Amen.**

### **\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: When we trust in ourselves, our foundation is faulty and our spiritual ground is shaky. But when we confess our sins, God restores our foundation and builds us up to his glory.

**People: Most merciful God, we are too much like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. We are sinful in thought, word and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. We are sinful from birth and are filled with evil. As a result, when the storms of life blow up, we are easily hurt and destroyed by them. We fail to build our spiritual lives on the firm foundation of your Word. Forgive us and renew us so that we are built up for our spir-itual good and for your glory.**

Pastor: In his great grace, God our Father picks up the pieces of our lives and fully forgives us because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. He establishes us on the foundation of his love and makes us firm in faith. Therefore, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”*

LSB 442



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

## \*GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 7:24-27*

*(Build on the Rock)*

[Jesus said:] “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

*“Built on the Rock”*

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how  
5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



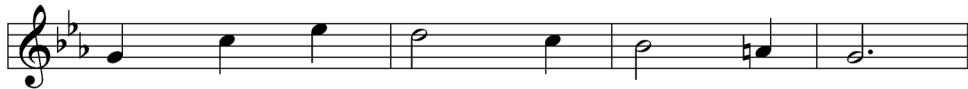
steeples are fall - ing, Crum - bled have spires in  
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's  
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives  
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim  
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
 Choos - es to live with us in love,  
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,  
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.  
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Tune and text: Public domain

**SERMON**

*"Build on the Rock"*

Pastor John Larson

**OFFERING**

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.epiphanylc.org](http://www.epiphanylc.org) and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.*



*If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.*

## [CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

### **\*PRAYERS**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, when the storms of life tear us down, build us back up in you. When our sin tears down another person, forgive us so that we are built back up in you. When it seems impossible to put back together the pieces of our lives, build us back up in you. When storms tear us down,

**People: build us back up on the foundation of your firm Word.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, your church is the place where you give gifts that build up rather than tear down. Draw us to you week in and week out so we are strong to face any adversity that may come our way. When storms tear us down,

**People: build us back up on the foundation of your firm Word.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we live in a sinful world and sometimes governments tear down rather than build up. Please provide leaders in our world and in our nation that provide help and protection for the poor, the needy and the oppressed. Use the structure of governments everywhere to provide resources that lay a firm foundation for peaceful life in this world. When storms tear us down,

**People: build us back up on the foundation of your firm Word.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, sometimes our bodies are torn down by the impact of sickness and disease. It is at those times that we need you to strengthen us and bring back the foundation of good health for our bodies. According to your will, bring health and healing to all those we know who have been torn down by illness. When storms tear us down,

**People: build us back up on the foundation of your firm Word.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the ultimate destroyer is death. But you have provided a way to life everlasting. When our bodies die, you give us new and eternal life. Thank you for the life and witness of the faithful Christians who have gone before us. Make their lives a witness and testimony to your amazing love. When storms tear us down,

**People: build us back up on the foundation of your firm Word.**

Pastor: Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs, knowing that you use your Word to re-construct us and build us up for our good and for your glory.

People: **Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**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.**

**\*BENEDICAMUS**

*LSB pg. 234*

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*LSB pg. 234*

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

*LSB 425*



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public domain

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## Holy Week Services

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday (with Holy Communion)

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 pm – Easter Service (with Communion)

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am & 9:30 am & 11:00 am –

Resurrection Sunday (with Holy Communion)



## Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

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ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

[pastorchrismatthis@epiphanylc.org](mailto:pastorchrismatthis@epiphanylc.org)

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

[dce@epiphanylc.org](mailto:dce@epiphanylc.org)

Mrs. Donata Rolf + [office@epiphanylc.org](mailto:office@epiphanylc.org) + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + [choir@epiphanylc.org](mailto:choir@epiphanylc.org)

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

*"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"*

