

# Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

## February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### Order of Service

<u>7:45 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Matins (pg. 219)	DSI (pg. 151)
Hymns	Hymns
425, "The Old Rugged Cross"	560, "The Old Rugged Cross," 425, 620, 427
Wednesday Hymns . . . . .	890, 425

### "The Old Rugged Cross"

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and  
best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*Refrain:* So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the  
world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

*(Refrain)*

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood  
so divine, Such a wonderful beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and  
died, To pardon and sanctify me.

*(Refrain)*

4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far  
away, Where His glory forever I'll share.  
*(Refrain)*

### Sermon

"The Cross is the Answer"  
Rev. Wes Gillaspie

### Scripture Readings

*Micah 6:1-8:* Listen to what the Lord says: "Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. Hear, you 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 plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey 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 olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, 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."

*I Corinthians 1:18-31:* 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 person? Where is the teacher of the law? 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 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 human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, 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. God 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 the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

*Matthew 5:1-12:* Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "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 children 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."

### Serving in Worship Today

Elders . . . . . Charles Zwerk; Dennis Thurston,  
Kevin Kern; Mark Schiefer

Organist . . . . . Calista Daenzer

Choir . . . . . Adult Choir

Usher . . . . . Alan Kischnick; Jeff Buchinger

Altar Guild . . . . . Lynn Hecht

Acolytes . . . . . Lucas Bierlein, Lane Gebhardt

### Wednesday

Elder . . . . . Ben Bekemeier

Pianist . . . . . Heiki Palm

Usher . . . . . Jeff Buchinger

### This week at St. Michael's

Today . . . . . Worship Service 7:45 a.m.  
Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.

Passion Drama Meeting between services  
Communion 10:30 a.m.

Mon . . . . . Mary Martha 7 p.m.

Tue . . . . . Elders Meeting 7 p.m.  
Adult Choir 7 p.m.

Wed . . . . . Sisters of Ruth 12 p.m.  
Communion 7 p.m.

Thurs . . . . . ECC Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Next Sun. . . . . Communion 7:45 a.m.

Bible Class/KidzMin 9 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Passion Drama meeting today between services.  
Everyone is invited!

*Lutheran Hour Rally:* St. Lorenz Lutheran Church of Frankenmuth will host a special worship service and rally today at 2:00. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. View Live on MI-LLL.ORG. By clicking the green button (View

Lutheran Hour Rally) a few minutes before to worship together.

**Baptism:** Koen Wesley Parrent, son of Eli and Melissa (Schoenow) Parrent, was baptized last Wednesday.

**Mary Martha** will meet tomorrow, February 2 at 7 pm in the church meeting room. Vicar Karl Camp from St. Lorenz will speak on his journey to becoming a pastor and stories about growing up in Russia. All are welcome to attend and enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

**Sisters of Ruth:** Gera Tavern has been reserved for Wed. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> for noon lunch. Meet at the church by 11:45 a.m. Call Luann with any questions.

**Attention!** Cemetery Committee is accepting bids for the 2026 mowing season. Please contact Jason Bierlein (989)529-5733 by 2/23/2026 If interested.

**St. Michael's Church Anniversary:** We are working on a special project and would love your help! We are looking for people of all ages who would like to be part of a special anniversary video. Additionally, we are looking for old photos from past events or memories at St. Michael's. If you're interested or have photos to share, please contact Mallorie Rogers at 989-882-7249.

**ECC Puzzle Party Fundraiser:** Join us once again for a puzzle party to raise funds for the Preschool scholarship program! Saturday, March 14, Cost: \$60/team - up to 3 people. Prizes awarded to the team who finishes first! More information can be found on the bulletin board in the foyer.

<u>Attendance</u>	
Sun. Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>	539
Wed. Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	41

#### Other News

*The Lutheran Hour* airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Type C" Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler; In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God. 1 Corinthians 2:12

*Children's German Heritage Service* Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, the students from St. Lorenz School will participate in the annual German 'Heritage Sunday' Service at St. Lorenz Church. The service will be broadcast on Spectrum/Charter cable channel 191 and the St. Lorenz website.

## Prayers

#### Health

*Lewis Abraham; Michelle DeCoe; Ben Dzioba; Don Duperon; Hope Hecht; Faith Heinlein; Ann Houser; Dave Janson; Barb Kern; Lynn Koviack, Carolyn Navarre; Eugene Palmreuter; Barb Rupprecht; Don Weber; Rollie Wenzel*

#### Sympathy

*The Family of Robert (Bob) Heinlein  
who passed away Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>,  
his funeral was Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>*

#### Mission

*Rev. Paul A. and Genevieve (Gena) Nelson  
serve on behalf of The Lutheran  
Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Southeast  
Asia, based in Medan, Indonesia. In this role,  
Paul works with deployed staff, partner  
churches and partner organizations throughout*

the region to provide theological training, pastoral mentoring and pastoral care.

#### Prayer of the Day

"Almighty God, since we face so many dangers that threaten our fallen nature, grant us Your strength and protection to strengthen us in all trials and temptations; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen."