



The Fisherman's Net "Catch the Spirit"

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Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

Practicing What You Preach

Probably one of the most difficult things any preacher (or any Christian, for that matter) can do is to practice what he or she has preached! (Isn't it so much easier to tell someone how to do something than do it yourself?)

So with a couple of major tragic events in our lives, Sabine and I have had to really start "walking our talk," practicing our faith. Just a few weeks before our son Matthew died, Sabine got some bad news about her cancer flaring up again. Shortly after that, I preached on the three things that seemed to help carry me through a granddaughter's death, Sabine's cancer diagnosis, and Matt's suicide. They were prayer, processing, and proceeding. They were not to be sequential, but on-going. Going through terrible and tragic loss, be it divorce, serious illness, job loss, or death requires that we practice doing all three of these things at the same time. First of all, and first it should be, is prayer – praying for the best we can do in the situation -- to ask God to be with us, to help us, sometimes simply to give us the strength to go on another day. At the same time, we begin to process what is going on, what needs to be done, what can be done now, and how all this fits into (or should fit into) our belief system. While this is going on, we also need to proceed forward and not get caught up in self-pity, medicating ourselves, or sinking into depression.

I know this is easier said than done. But Sabine and I continue to work through these three important steps in living the life which we have been given – through our "ups and downs," and living life the best way we can according to that which we believe!

A couple of weeks ago, Sabine was a guest speaker at a regional multiple myeloma cancer conference in Waukesha County. She was asked to present her experience with this serious blood cancer to a group of patients, caregivers and medical practitioners. Do you know what her talk was all about? It was about those three steps I had recently preached -- about praying, processing, and then proceeding. I had almost forgotten about that sermon I gave a month or so earlier. That time I had talked about using those same three steps to get myself back on track after Sabine's cancer flare-up. And now, Sabine was sharing those same three points to a group of 300 people. Afterwards, I heard people come up to her and congratulate her on her positive approach to life and how important

her words were to them. I guess that is what God's Word is all about. It is about discerning what God is saying to us, putting it into an understandable package, and then moving forward with trust and confidence. If God says that he will be with us when we walk through "the valley of the shadow of death" and that he will never abandon us and will always be with us even in the most painful of times, I, for one, will stand up and hold God accountable for what he says. I hope you will, too. Then remember to pray, process, and proceed. So far, it has worked for me and Sabine. And I know it will work for you, too!

The Alphabet - Author Unknown

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Jesus is ever faithful
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Exalting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes
 some will be bad, but
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

On Prayer

Prayer is to be in God's presence with open hands and an open heart. There are many things in my life to which I cling as with a clinched fist—my possessions for sure, but the immaterial things as well—the work I do, the position I hold, the friends I have, my ideas, my principles, my image. If I should open my fist, they still remain. Nothing drops out. But my hands are open. And that is what prayer is. After a while, if I am willing to remain long enough with my open hands, the Lord will come. He will have a look and roam through my hands to see what I have. He may be surprised—so many things! Then He will look at me and ask:

‘Would you mind if I put something else in your hands?’

And I answer: ‘Of course you may.’

That is the heart of prayer. The lord may take something out, and He may put something in. No one else can do this, but He may. Author Unknown

Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Nov. 7, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Fall Clean-up & Lunch	Kathy Marks	P/D Mikulak
Nov. 14, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Pete Buerosse	Kathy Marks
Nov. 17, Wednesday	6:00 PM Simple Meal & Bible Study		
Nov. 21, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Andy Marks	D. Mikulak
Advent Begins—Year A			
Nov. 28, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Debbie Marks	Kathy Marks

Lessons for November

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Nov. 7	Haggai 1:15—2:9	145:1-5, 18-22	2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Nov. 14	Isaiah 65:17-25	Canticle 9	2 Thess. 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Nov. 21	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Canticle 16	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
Nov. 28	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Romans 13:11-14	Matt. 24:36-44

Remember in Your Prayers

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1John 5:14-15)

- *Keep Charlotte Lobitz in your prayers as she recovers from a broken tibia.
- *Keep Fr. David & Sabine in your prayers. Their son, Matthew, died last month.
- *Give thanks for the rescue of the 33 miners in Chile who survived a mine collapse.
- *Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers. Remember especially Yumi and Costin.
- *Pray for the people in Haiti who have contracted cholera.
- *Pray for those who will be hunting and/or traveling during the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- *Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- *Pray for our leaders, both national and local, to make good decisions.
- *Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2015.
- *Pray for St. Peter’s and its families, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

Nov. 12 Andy Marks
Nov. 23 Evan Medd
Nov. 27 John Campbell

Happy Anniversary

Nov. 6 Paul & Denise Mikulak

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary or listed it incorrectly, please let us know so we may celebrate with you! Submissions or corrections may be sent to the editor.
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The Spirit at Work!

- *REMEMBER to set your clocks BACK, November 7. Daylight Savings Ends!!!
- *Marks your calendars for **Stewardship Sunday**, December 5.
- *St. Peter’s fall clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, November 7 after our service. Lunch will be provided. Remember to bring your rakes, rags and any cleaning supplies you deem necessary.

*Rick Luedke attended the Diocesan Convention, Oct. 8-9. His recent comments at the October Vestry meeting included that our Canons are to be rewritten to conform to the National Church. He very much enjoyed listening to the Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori, who said the “Episcopal Church must open its doors to become more inclusive.” Rick said Presiding Bishop Schori used the words “invite, inspire, transform and include” when he spoke of her speech. Rick said the Convention was the “highlight” of his weekend.

*The next Vestry Meeting is set for Sunday, December 5 at 8:00 AM.

*St. Peter’s History Book is missing! ? It is a freshly bound book with all births and deaths and history of St. Peter’s. If you have any information, contact Andy Marks 538-1472.

Thanksgiving

A decision was made by the Vestry not to have a Thanksgiving Eve or Thanksgiving Day service this year. We hope that you will read the Bible lessons for this day of Thanksgiving sometime during your celebration.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

Book of Common Prayer, p. 837 (*responding with: *We thank you, Lord*)

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

*For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

*For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

*For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

*For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

*For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

*For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

*For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

*For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer for Wisconsin - from the Washington National Cathedral

Most gracious God, We pray to you to look with favor on the state of Wisconsin, its cities and towns, its lakeshores and rolling hills, its prairies, forests and farms.

We Pray for the people who call Wisconsin home. May they all—the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the secure and the homeless—enjoy a just share in the bounty of your creation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Embracing an Adult Faith: What it Means to Be Christian

Fr. David will facilitate a discussion of a video presentation by contemporary theologian Marcus Borg (author of “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” “The Heart of Christianity” and “The God We Never Knew”) on five subjects: “God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice and Community.” The study is called “Embracing an Adult Faith: What it Means to Be Christian.” Each night we will begin at 6:00 pm with a simple meal and then listen to a 20 minute video by Borg.

Fr. David will facilitate a discussion for no longer than an hour. Each participant will receive a handbook for note-taking and reflection. We will meet on the following Wednesday evenings:

November 17, and December 1, 8, 15 and 22. There is be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Holy Spirit 101:

A Weekend to Experience the Fullness of God

A teaching and worshipping experience to know and understand the third person in the Trinity will begin Friday, December 3 at 6 PM and end Saturday at 2 PM at Bethel Horizons Retreat Center, Hwy 23 and County ZZ, south of Dodgeville. Retreat leaders are Pastor Rob Nelson of New Heights Lutheran Church and Fr. David Couper, Episcopal Priest. Topics during the retreat include: *Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most out of the rest of my life?* Be prepared for experiential worship, joyful music, and a deeper growth in Jesus Christ. Cost for lodging and Meals: \$50.00

Pre-registration is required. Send your name and check to *New Heights Lutheran Church*, 1705 Center St., Black Earth, WI 53515 (phone 608-7676-2247).

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

A Christian, a Jew, and a Muslim walk into a room...

Why do people believe what they do regarding faith and God? How do people choose the religion they subscribe to? And why do so many people become paralyzed by the dogma of their religion and totally ignore the essence of their faith. In the book, *The Faith Club*, three women of different faiths set out to write an interfaith children's book in order to highlight the similarities between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Their hope, to discuss and explore many of the stereotypes and misunderstandings that exist today, and in the end, write a book that would show how people of different faiths could learn to respect each other and other forms of

worship. Shortly after beginning the project, the three women develop a strong friendship that soon becomes threatened by the core of their individual beliefs and the subtle and sometimes not so subtle prejudices they feel regarding each others faith.

In reading this book I found myself pondering certain questions regarding my own faith. Why am I a Christian? If I am honest, I guess I would have to say I am Christian because my parents were. Growing up as a child, we went to Mass as a family every Sunday and most "Holy Days". We, my siblings and I, attended a parochial grade school and were expected to take religion classes during our public high school years. We were taught not to question our parents and not to question our faith. We were persuaded that we held the key to salvation and anyone who was not a member of our faith was simply misguided, to put it nicely. In my life, I have often wondered if my parents weren't Christian would I be. If I wasn't a Christian and had only a limited knowledge of Jesus, what would my perception be of Christianity? And what would it be like to attend a Mass? In *The Faith Club*, Ranya, the Muslim woman is invited by Suzanne to attend Easter service at her Episcopal church. Ranya accepts the invitation and she and her family attend. At first Ranya feels welcome and comfortable. She is moved by the music and impressed with the beauty of the church. As the service progresses, however, she begins to feel uncomfortable with the liturgy. Jesus, in Islam, is a great prophet, not the Son of God. By the time the service reached "the Peace", she began to wonder if those who happily offered her and her family the "Peace of Christ" would be so congenial if they knew they were Muslims. Her thoughts and impressions about her experience made me wonder what mine would be given similar circumstances. When viewed from the outside, my faith probably seems as bizarre as what I might see in other faiths. Simply realizing this might help me to be a bit more open minded. I believe that God loves all of us even though many seem to believe God loves them *more*, simply because of their form of worship and their beliefs. Like a father who loves his children and wants them to live in harmony, I believe God cares less on how we worship and more on how we live. Finding common ground with other faiths would go a long way to easing the tensions in the world and bringing about this harmony. The lyrics of the song we used to sing at Mass when I attended college sums it up; "God is love and he who abides in love, abides in God, and

God in him". Perhaps if that was the overriding theme for all the Monotheistic religions, we could learn to respect each other and make a start for peace in a world that seems bent on destroying itself.

What We Sing: #494 Crown him with many crowns"

"Crown Him with many crowns" appears in several different versions. It was originally written by Matthew Bridges (1800-1893), but it was subsequently altered by Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), and then again by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). Matthew Bridges was born in Maldon, Essex. He was brought up as an Anglican, but later became a Roman Catholic. "Crown Him with many crowns" first appeared in *Hymns of the Heart* 1851. The title comes from Revelation 19:12. In 1874 Godfrey Thring, a Prebendary (a member of the clergy entitled to a stipend allotted from the revenues of a cathedral) of Wells Cathedral, wrote a hymn modeled on Bridges' composition with the title "Crown him with crowns of gold." Six years later Thring published a composite version which began with Bridges' first verse and continued with stanzas of his own. Thus several versions of the hymn appeared which mixed the verses of the two writers. For *Songs of Praise* in 1931 Percy Dearmer made further substantial alterations to produce a version which stressed the social message of the gospel. Most hymn books have now reverted to printing Bridge's original version with the sixth verse omitted. The expression "mystic Rose" which occurs in the fifth line of Bridge's original second verse is a medieval title for the Virgin Mary. Our hymnal has Bridge's first verse, Thring's 2nd and 3rd verses. It is unclear who penned our 4th and 5th verses. Here is the original hymn by Bridges:

2. Crown Him the Virgin's Son,
The God Incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
As of that Rose the Stem;
The Root whence mercy ever flows,
The Babe of Bethlehem

5. Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne—the Infinite,
Who lives—and loves—and saves.

3. Crown Him the Lord of love:
Behold His hands and side,
Those wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No Angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

6. Crown Him the Lord of heaven,
One with the Father known,
And the blest Spirit through him given
From yonder triune throne:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me!
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

4. Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round His piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Dearmer's social message verse:

Crown him upon the throne
Of justice and of right
In him the love of God is shown,
To shine in human light:
He reigns, the Son of Man
All grace divine is his:
Pierce through the creeds, his features scan,
And see him as he is.

Football Christianity

Quarterback Sneak: Communicants who quietly exit immediately following Communion, a quarter of the way through the service, or near the last quarter of the service.

Draft Choice: Selection of the seat near the door.

Draw Play: What many children (and a few adults) do with their service leaflets.

Halftime: The time between the peace and the offering.

Benchwarmer: Those whose only participation is their attendance Sunday morning.

Fumble: Dropping a hymnal, singing the wrong verse, and general inattention to the Prayer Book.

Backfield in Motion: Making two or three trips out of the church during the sermon.

Stay in the Pocket: What happens to a lot of money that should go toward mission.

Two Minute Warning: When the Rector begins cleansing the vessels after communion, giving everyone time to shuffle Prayer Books, hymnals, and gather belongings.

Sudden Death: The Rector going into overtime.

Blitz: The stampede to the doors after the services. *Via The Anglican Digest*

*There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Stories, Bloopers & Puns, Oh My!

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about...

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. The pastor replied, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

*The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

*At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen our choir practice.

*Potluck Supper Sunday at 5:00 PM—prayer and medication to follow.

! No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

!Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.