



"Exaltation of the True Cross" Adam Elsheimer, 1603-05.

August 17, 2025

Reflections

"When I ask myself the main reason for so many people having left the Church during the past decades in France, Germany, Holland, and also in Canada and America, the word 'power' easily comes to mind. One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave in to the temptation of power - political power, military power, economic power, or moral and spiritual power - even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to his divine power but emptied himself and became as we are. The temptation to consider power an apt instrument for the proclamation of the Gospel is the greatest of all... What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life... The long painful history of the Church is the history of people ever and again tempted to choose power over love, control over the cross, being a leader to being led. Those who resisted this temptation to the end and thereby give us hope are the true saints."

Henri Nouwen

"Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant."

Philippians 2:5-7

"Grace is God loving, God stooping, God coming to the rescue, God giving himself generously in and through Jesus Christ."

John Stott

"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

On the art:

This central panel from The Frankfurt Altarpiece of the Exaltation of the True Cross by German artist Adam Elsheimer shows the glorification of the cross by saints, prophets, angels, and other biblical figures. On the right, are the 4 the patriarchs including Moses, Abraham and King David. Jonas is sitting on the fish, looking up towards the cross. By casting the cross in the midst of these fathers and mothers of the faith, Elsheimer highlights the centrality of Jesus' sacrifice as the instrument of our salvation and the reversal of the death brought forth by Adam's sin.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Your Word (Isaiah 55)

Open our ears
Open our hearts
To hear your Word
To hear your Word
Open our ears
Open our hearts
To hear your Word
To hear your Word

Open our mouths
Loosen our tongues
To speak your Word
To speak your Word
Open our mouths
Loosen our tongues
To speak your Word
To speak your Word

Your Word will do
What you sent it to do
Your Word has overcome
Your Word is true,
And it's ta-king root
Making all things new in us

Ready our feet
Steady our hands
To live your Word
To live your Word
Ready our feet
Steady our hands
To live your Word
To live your Word

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Psalms 92:1-5, Proverbs 19:21

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun;
His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turned to light,

Whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in His path to birth.

The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever —
That Name to us is Love!

PRAISE SONG

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

RENEWAL SONG

Hallelujah! What a Savior

Man of Sorrows! what a name
for the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;
spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry.
Now in heav'n exalted high:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"That You May Believe: Understanding the Misunderstood Jesus"

David Speakman

¹ After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." ⁹ After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

¹⁰ But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" ¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." ¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

¹⁴ About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he

has never studied?" ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. ¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

John 7:1-24

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Peace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!
Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Who Is Like the Lord Our God?

Our Father, He lifts from the ashes
He raises the poor and the lost;
He seats them to dine at his table,
To feast without money or cost.
The lonely he settles in families
The barren, a mother he makes;

O happy the heart of the stranger
Who's welcomed by this King of Grace.

Who is like the LORD our God?
Who with glory fills the sky?
But humbles himself with the broken to dwell
Who is like our God?

Though equal to God in His glory,
Christ Jesus became like a slave;
He humbled himself in obedience
To Death, and the Cross, and the Grave.
Victorious, he rose to the highest;
In glory, the Savior was raised.
His name above all names exalted;
The heavens and earth sing His praise

O Saints, fix your eyes on the Savior
And count all your righteousness lost.
Be found in his love and his favor,
And share in his death on the cross.
That all of his power in victory,
Imparted to you, may abound;
And sharing the suff'rings of Jesus,
You share in his glory and crown

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.

Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

August School Supplies Drive for Speas: Link in Looking Up, last week to shop.
Backpack Packing Party - Sept. 7 3:15pm: All invited to the pavilion.

CHURCH LIFE

Adult Sunday School: On Marriage with pastors Ethan Smith and Ben Shaw, 1st Samuel with elder Delane Clark.

Young Adult Life Group Kickoff- Aug. 18 6pm: Contact details in Church Center.

Barnabas Training Basic - Aug. 23 9am-4pm: Register before Aug. 18 for discount.

Installation & Ordination Service w/ Dessert - Aug. 24 7pm: All welcome!

Gathering Hour - Aug. 25 8-9pm: All women welcome to join us at the Remedy.

Women's Bible Study in Revelation - Begins Sept. 2: Register now for Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am (childcare available) or Tuesdays 7-8:30pm.

Men's Cohorts in Revelation - Various dates/times: Begins week of Sept. 8. Register.

Prayer Gathering - Mondays 7-8pm: All are welcome in Rm 107.

Discovering Hope - Sept. 12-13: Register now for our membership class!

Women's Retreat - Oct. 24-26: All women welcome! Registration now open.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Hope Kids Fall Programming details available in Church Center and on the website.

Youth Fall Programming details available in Church Center and on the website.

Youth & Families Kickoff - Today 5-6:30pm: Dinner provided in the pavilion!

Kids Connection - *Summer Verses* - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2) My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken. (Psalm 62:1-2)

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 12, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 8/31	Difference	
Income	\$776,192	\$790,101	-\$13,909	-1.76%
Expense	\$793,744	\$976,612	-\$182,869	-18.72%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$17,552	-\$186,511	\$168,959	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,527,109