



I've Been Thinking about . . . St. Matthew's Passion

by Pastor Chris

“The chief end of music is to glorify God and to refresh the soul of the listener.” So declared Johann Sebastian Bach, arguably the greatest composer of western culture.

Bach's masterpiece *St. Matthew's Passion* has both glorified God and refreshed listeners' souls for 283 years. Listening to it as I write this column, its melodies and words (tinged as they are with melancholy while eschewing lugubrious excess) draw my heart to contemplate the passion of Jesus. God is glorified. My soul is refreshed.

Bach collaborated with the poet Christian Friedrich Henrici in writing *St. Matthew's Passion*. Bach composed the music, while Henrici wrote the words with Bach's input.

St. Matthew's Passion flows as a deep river, inviting all who stand upon its banks to drink from its confluence of the passion narrative in Matthew and the reflections upon that narrative by Bach and Henrici.

As we enter the season when we especially commemorate the passion of Jesus, let us sample the waters of *St. Matthew's Passion*:

Now when Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster box of very precious ointment, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table (Matt. 26:6-7).

Dear Redeemer . . . grant that I with tears streaming from my eyes may pour water upon Your head. Penance and remorse grind the sinful heart in two. May the drops of my tears be an acceptable anointing to You, faithful Jesus.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matt. 26:26-28).

I will give my heart to You. Sink Yourself in it, my Salvation. I will submerge myself in You. And if the world is too small for You, then for me alone shall You be more than world and heaven.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless not as I will, but as you will” (Matt. 26:39).

The Savior falls down before his Father. Thereby he raises me and all men from our fall upward to God's grace again. He is ready to drink the cup, death's bitterness, wherein the sins of this world are poured and stink odiously, because it pleases God.

Pilate said to them, “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Let him be crucified!”

And the governor said, “Why? What evil has he done?” (Matt. 27:22-23)

He has done good to us all. He gave sight to the blind. The lame he made to walk. He told us his Father's word. He drove the devils forth. The wretched he has raised up. He received and sheltered sinners. Nothing else has my Jesus done. Out of love my Savior is willing to die, though he knows nothing of any sin, so that eternal ruin and the punishment of judgment may not rest upon my soul.

“The LORD”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.” (Ps. 84:11-12 NIV)

March 14th I shared with all of you at our worship services how, after becoming interestingly aware of the little phrase, “the LORD”, it kept popping up everywhere in the Scriptures. When God is referred to as “LORD” (all capital letters in English translations), it represents the most holy, sacred, and majestic name they have in Hebrew for God, YHWH, commonly known as “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”. This morning during my devotional time it appeared again in the above two verses. I was especially blessed by the message of these two verses, and trust that God will use them to encourage you as well. Keep your eyes open for “the LORD” as you spend time in God’s Word.

Family Care Fund: Last month I had a special note in my article regarding the Family Care Fund because of the generous manner in which you responded to a plea to help the people in Haiti. This month I want to thank you again because of added gifts you have provided for our Neighborhood Service Center food shelf. The FCF Committee had decided to give half of the February FCF offering to help support this valuable service to the needy in our community. A total of \$928.00 was received in the offering; therefore, one-half of that (\$464.00) was given to our NSC food shelf.

Newcomer/Membership Class: May 5th and 12th are rapidly approaching. I want to remind any of you who are new to Christ Community Church, or those of you who are considering membership in our church, that these dates are the days we have scheduled our next series of two newcomer/membership classes. Anyone interested in learning more about the Evangelical Free Church or CCC is welcome to attend. Seeing that AWANA and our regular youth ministries are over for the present school year by that time, we are going to try meeting on Wednesday evenings for the first time.

Prayer: Sunday, March 14th, we were privileged to have Ken & Lauana Bevel share with us during our Sunday School hour. Ken played Lt. Michael Simmons in the movie *FIREPROOF*. Ken shared how God has blessed Sherwood Baptist Church and its movie productions. The one aspect of the church that really stood out to me, which the Bevels also emphasized, was their focus on prayer. Everything they do is bathed in prayer.

At Christ Community we have been blessed with wonderful people and ministry opportunities! I would like to encourage even more of you to become involved in our prayer ministry. Each Sunday evening at 5:00 PM people join together in the Fireside Room to pray. Prayer for the Sunday services takes place in the Conference Room each Sunday at 7:15 AM (or forty-five minutes before the 1st service).

Also, I sense the vision to expand our “away game” is generating increased interest among our people. As our capital campaign moves forward, seeking to expand our ministry for the Lord, I am convinced that the key behind our success is going to be prayer. Please pray for unity, God’s clear leading, wisdom, clarity of vision, and Spirit led involvement by everyone. God has said that He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20); therefore, let’s come boldly and confidently before Him in prayer.

Pastor Howard

H.T.C.
Heart Thoughts for Cornerstone
By: Pastor Zach Marino

Last month we reflected on how God always desires for us to grow in hard times. The hope we receive provides a solid foundation yet a fertile soil for us to grow in. When we get really discouraged in life, like we have failed as parents, failed as students, failed in life, God hasn't given up on us. It's in those times that we need to grab God's right hand and hold on, as He carries us through. It's through Christ and His work on the cross that we have this hope, and what a wonderful, strong, tender hope that is. The rest of the poem has two lines, and they are so packed with rich wisdom that we will take the next two months to unpack them in "HTC" (Heart thoughts for Cornerstone). The line we will look at this month is "*He always lifts me up by His love and strength.*"

Coming from last month talking about God's hope through Christ, we come to this line that ties in very nicely and does a great job expounding on the previous thought. As this line is still in reference to trying times, we hear the truth that we are lifted first by God's love. Now, to try to unpack God's love in a few thoughts is impossible. Thousands of books, millions of books could be written on "God's love" and still wouldn't have even scratched the surface because of the depth of His love for mankind. What do we know about God's love? It's sacrificial. 1 John 3:16 says this, "By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us." Christ, submitting to the will of His Father, went through trying, harsh, literally deadly circumstances because His passion for you and me was deep. As the famous worship song says, "*How deep the Father's love for us; How vast beyond all measure; That He would give His only Son; to make a wretch [us] His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away; As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory*" (Stewart Townend). God's love is sacrificial. God isn't about seeing us fail in miserable times. He's proved His love by sending His Son to die. Christ has proven His love for you and me by dying. When we go through trying times, we can rely on God's love, His tough, sacrificial love isn't all about "smiles and blessings" but rather rock-solid promises and tender, gracious love. You see, He wants to be with you, through the thick and thin. Never again does He want to be separated from you. That is the passion of our Heavenly Father.

From God's passionate love we gain strength. If we look at Job, a man in the Bible who was truly tested by God, he drew strength from God's promises, from God's love. "*You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit*" (Job 10:12). Steadfast love. Even though Job wasn't feeling loved, because of all this bad stuff happening to him, he knew, trusted, that God's love hadn't changed for him, it remained just as passionate. Job grabbed onto that passion to face his trials. He drew strength from God's love.

When we face trying times, we draw our strength from God's love. For God's love has been demonstrated in a sacrificial and beautiful way. It stands forever and is the source of strength for all those believe.

Pastor Zach

“Oh, now I get it!”

By Jeff Stebbins
CCC Missionary

Resource Exchange International-Vietnam



A farrier once made me a cool puzzle. He looped and welded three horseshoes together so they couldn't be separated unless they were twisted just right. It was easy once he showed me how to do it; otherwise, there was no way. Before he showed me, I felt like an idiot--but afterward, I was a genius!

In Psalm 119:98-100, David claimed to be wiser than his enemies, more insightful than his teachers, with more understanding than the elders. David *was* smart (well, except for that Bathsheba thing)--so how did a simple shepherd boy learn so much?

First, David listened to Samuel, who listened to God. In 1 Sam. 16:3-4, God tells Samuel, “I will show you what to do.” Then, “Samuel did what the Lord said.” Second, David knew and obeyed God's Word; that's the point of Ps. 119. Verse 130 says, “The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Finally, David was filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit (1 Sam. 16:13). Ps. 143:8-10 summarizes David's dependence upon God's wisdom: “I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go... teach me to do Your will... may Your good Spirit lead me...”

David's son, Solomon, was also wise. In Prov. 2:6 and 3:5-6, he says that real wisdom, knowledge, and understanding come from God, and that He will show us how to live if we trust Him.

David and Solomon both discovered that real life know-how is not about having a smart brain; it's about having a trusting heart. David said, “I trust You, show me, teach me, lead me”--and God did. To know God and His will for us, and for God to show us how to live, we must turn to Him with an open heart, an open mind, and then *believe* what He says.

In Luke 24, two guys were walking to Emmaus, trying to figure things out, and Jesus showed up. At first, they were “slow of heart to believe” (v. 25). Then they finally listened to and trusted what Jesus told them from Scripture. “Their eyes were opened” (v. 31) and they understood.

Heart, eyes, mind. In Eph. 4: 17-18, Paul says futile thinking, darkened understanding, and ignorance are the result of hardened hearts. In Eph. 1:17-18, he prays that the Spirit of wisdom will open the eyes of our hearts to know God and the glorious hope He offers us.

This will sound simplistic, but the truest truths usually *are* simple (wash your hands, pay attention, think before you speak). So here it is: we may not be very smart, but God is. If we'll listen to Him, trust Him, and do what He says, infinite joys await us.

The world around us (and we who inhabit it) are a puzzle; we can feel like idiots until we trust our Maker to show us how to live. Then finally we'll say, “Oh, now I get it!”



2200 4th Street NE - Waseca, MN 56093

PHONE: (507) 835-2235

FAX: (507) 833-8857

E-MAIL: ccc@ccecfca.com

Website: www.ccecfca.com

PRAYER REQUESTS: prayer@ccecfca.com

A heart for God and you

Sunday Worship Events



First service: 8:00 - 9:15am

Fellowship: 9:15 - 9:30am

Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:30am

Second Service: 10:45am - 12pm

Prayer Meeting: 5:00 - 6:00pm

Sunday Night Life Classes: 6:00 - 7:30pm

Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.



MAKS



ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

FRIENDS, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

Bring a friend!!



Spring is here and MAKS wants to help energize you during this busy season. MAKS is a moms & kids group that meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the Fireside Room from 10am to noon. We spend time working & learning together as mothers. Then we enjoy a meal together while our children are well cared for and having fun.



April 6th

Spring is here and it is time to start thinking about your gardens. We will be learning some tips on vegetable gardening for beginners.



April 20th

Thrifty Shopping Tips

A new look at how to save some money and still get what we need at the store.



Come prepared to relax, laugh & meet other moms.



Our leaders this year are: Stacey Dufault, Aimee Miller, Shannon Kuball, Kara Ring, Lisa Cage, Jeannie Hadley, Jessica Mickelson & Stacy Dufault - Please contact any one of us with any questions.

Continued from page 1

I've Been Thinking about . . . St. Matthew's Passion

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the common hall and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. And when they had twisted together a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head (Matt. 27:27-30).

*O sacred head now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish,
Which once was bright as morn!*

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means the Place of the Skull). There they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. And they crucified him. . . (Matt. 27:33-35).

*See, Jesus had his hand stretched out to grasp us. Come!
To where?
Into Jesus' arms.
Seek redemption, find mercy. Seek!
Where?
In Jesus' arms. Live, die, rest here, you forsaken chickens. Remain.
Where?
In Jesus' arms.*

As the evening approached, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him (Matt. 27:57-58).

*Make yourself clean, my heart. I will myself entomb Jesus.
For he shall henceforth in me, for ever and ever, take his sweet rest.
World, begone, let Jesus in!*

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away (Matt. 27:59-60).

Your grave and tombstone shall for the unquiet conscience be a comfortable pillow and the soul's resting place.

May God be glorified. May our souls be refreshed.



An Exciting Opportunity

One of the most powerful ways you can help transition our Capital Campaign into a Kingdom Campaign is through prayer.

God responds for His glory through prayer!

Be sure to join us in the Concert of Prayer on Sunday, April 11th during our Sunday School hour - 9:30-10:30 AM.

We will enjoy worship of our awesome God through shared faith experiences, prayer & music. God desires that none should perish.

He is mighty to save. And with Him all things are possible!

Come and seek Him.

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”
(James 5:16b)



APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	2 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group <u>7:00pm</u> Good Friday Service at Faith UMC	3 <u>8:00am</u> Elder Dev. Meeting
4  <u>8:00-9:30am</u> Easter Breakfast <u>10:00-11:30am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	5 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts Study <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Comm. Mtg.	6 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:00pm</u> Bldg. Teams <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Min. <u>7:00pm</u> Congr. Care <u>8:00pm</u> Steering Com.	7 <u>6-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9pm</u> highRise	8 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	9 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	10
11 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Concert of Prayer <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> S.N. Life	12 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts Study	13 <u>7:00pm</u> Children's Comm. Mtg.	14 <u>6-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9pm</u> highRise	15 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	16 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	17
18 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> S.N. Life	19 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>1-4:00pm</u> Quilt Group <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts Study	20 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	21 <u>6-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9pm</u> highRise	22 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	23 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> District Youth Conf. thru Sunday </div>
25 <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> S.N. Life	26 <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts Study	27	28 <u>6-7:30pm</u> AWANA Awards <u>6-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9pm</u> highRise	29 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Worship Team	30 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	