

+ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
The Sunday of the Passion
 April 13, 2025

“WHAT KIND OF FOOL . . . ?”

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he **[Christ]** humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

To the Corinthians, St. Paul wrote: *“The foolishness of God is w_____ than men, and the weakness of God is s_____ than men”* (1 Cor 1:18–25). We will gather this week as the Lord puts his f_____ and w_____ on full display while the world looks on, dumbfounded, wondering,

“WHAT KIND OF FOOL . . . ?”

I. WHAT KIND OF FOOL IS THIS?

...who thinks you can climb to the t_____ by moving d_____? What kind of *“fool’s errand”* is he running? Doesn’t he know that *“nice guys finish _____”*? Doesn’t he know that you must s_____ and c_____ your way to the top? They say that *“a fool and his money are soon parted;”* but this fool is parted, not just from his money, but from everything – his f_____, his d_____, his r_____, his very l_____! And it’s not as though he had nothing to lose in the first place! *“He was in the form of _____”* (v 6). Anything that belongs to God belongs to him. Yet he gives it all up to become a _____? And then, everything that belongs to him as man, he gives up to become a _____? And then, of the little that a slave

could call his own, the only thing he claims as his own is the one thing any sensible slave would do anything to be rid of: a slave’s _____ – on a _____!

What kind of fool is this? Even now, we haven’t fully arrived at the depth of his *“foolishness,”* for he is not tr_____ or sc_____ out of these things. He gives them up v_____! Why? Because he v_____ something else more. What could that possibly be? It must be something truly p_____, right? It is the answer to this question which reveals how truly foolish he was! More than all the rights, and glory, and prerogatives which were his by r_____, he treasured _____. He gave it all up for a _____ that could never r_____ his love, even if it w_____ to (which it did not).

What kind of fool is this, who thinks that the way to the top is by diving down to the bottom; that the way to l_____ passes through d_____? It is that *“fool”* known as T_____, better known to us by his human name, Jesus. Paul writes to the Corinthians:

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor 1:21–25).

In the world's eyes, Jesus is the ultimate fool. On that Friday some 2000 years ago, he e_____ himself of every shred of human d_____, willingly becoming *"obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."* When judged by human wisdom, he is the greatest of fools!

II. WHAT KIND OF FOOL WON'T _____ HIM?

Answer: The kind of fool who thinks that the way to greatness is by climbing to the _____, the way of self-e_____. The kind of fool who refuses to see in this Jesus the incomprehensible love of _____ at work. *"Some of the Pharisees in the [Palm Sunday] crowd said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very _____ would cry out'" (Lk 19:40).* If we refuse to praise him, the r_____ and s_____ will gladly take our place! But what kind of fools would we then show _____ to be? For he did not empty himself of his heavenly glory or become *"obedient unto death...on a cross"* (v 8) to redeem rocks and stones. He did it to redeem _____ and _____, each of us *"a lost and condemned person"* (Small Catechism, 2nd Article). He did it to free us from the _____ our sins has deserved and exalt us instead to the heights of _____!

"Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (vv 9-11).

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE ✠ SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT