



Affirmation of Vows
for
Bill and Diana Iltzsche

and

Baptism of Ethan, Collin, Lillian and Lucas Ring

September 13, 2025
2:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Songs without Words

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

INTRODUCTION

Water is poured into the font.

Bill and Diana, in the waters of baptism,
you are claimed by God and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
God clothes you with mercy and lovingkindness, forgiveness and hope,
gifts that you are called to share with the world.
In marriage your life in Christ took a new shape
as you made promises of love and commitment to one another.
As God has chosen us, you choose one another,
sharing the gifts of your baptism not only separately but joined together.
Your marriage brings you joy and serves the community by witnessing to Christ,
as you daily die to self-centeredness and rise to self-giving love.
God joins this celebration, pouring out the Holy Spirit
to bless your marriage with forgiveness, courage, and compassion.
The community joins God in rejoicing with you
and in promising to surround your marriage with joy and loving support.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer,
we thank you for providing Diana and Bill these fifty years together.
Grant that they, abiding in your love and faithfulness,
may continue to share with one another
their joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

READINGS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 3:21-22

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF VOWS

Bill and Diana,

I invite you to affirm your vows to one another as husband and wife.

The couple may join hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

In the presence of God and this community,

I affirm my vow to you, *(name)*.

With thanksgiving, I promise to share with you
all that is still to come.

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with Bill and Diana,
will you continue to support and care for them,
sustain and pray for them in times of trouble,
give thanks with them in times of joy,
honor the bonds of their covenant,
and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?

We will.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Water is Wide

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ETHAN JOSEPH, COLLIN ANDREW, LILLIAN ELISABETH AND LUCAS WILLIAM RING

The candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Ethan Joseph, Collin Andrew, Lillian Elisabeth and Lucas William for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Ethan, Collin, Lillian and Lucas baptized into Christ?

We do.

Ethan, Collin, Lillian and Lucas: called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

Ethan, Collin, Lillian and Lucas, as you come to receive this gift—and parents, sponsors, as you accompany them—you are entering into the covenant life of baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word, and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Ethan, Collin, Lillian, and Lucas, will you continue in this covenant God is making with you in baptism?

We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Parents, do you promise to help Ethan, Collin, Lillian, and Lucas continue to grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Ethan, Collin, Lillian, and Lucas in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

The assembly stands.

People of God, do you promise to support Ethan, Collin, Lillian, and Lucas and pray for them in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with them, learn with them, serve with them, and together give praise to God?

We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Ethan Joseph, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Collin Andrew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lillian Elisabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lucas William, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the heads of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain (Ethan, Collin, Lillian, Lucas) with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

(Ethan, Collin, Lillian, Lucas), child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You made us in your image, for community you created us.
When your Word became flesh, you made your home among us,
bringing us all grace upon grace, for the sake of the world you so love.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God,
mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying,
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With Diana, Bill, Ethan, Collin, Lillan and Lucas and all the saints in light,
with earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

*It is Well with my Soul
Calm to the Waves*

MARRIAGE BLESSING

Children and grandchildren gather with the pastors around the couple

Blessed are you, O God.

Holy is your presence,
glorious is your peace.

You made humans to love and be loved.

You call us together into community
so that we might not live and die alone.

Bless now Bill and Diana

in their continued commitment to one another.

As you have blessed your faithful people
throughout time and around the earth,
we ask you now to continue to bless the union of their lives.

Blessed are you, O God, father of mercies.

Pour your mercy over Diana and Bill,
that they may know your lovingkindness
and share your mercy with one another.

Blessed are you, O God, mother of life.

Continue to create for Bill and Diana occasions
when they may share their life with the world.
Through them bless their children and grandchildren;
shape their families to be signs of your love to all they meet.

Blessed are you, O God: you are our home.

Abide in their dwelling,
that it may be a place of warmth and protection,
hospitality and generosity.

Blessed are you, O God: you are the horizon of our days.

Shine always before them,
that they may journey into the future
with you ever in their view.

Blessed are you, O God: you are the everlasting arms.
Protect them from danger,
support them in trouble,
comfort them in sorrow.
Embrace them with your tender strength
all the days of their lives.
Blessed are you, O God, Father, Son, and Spirit.
the Lover, the Beloved, and Love.
Give to Diana and Bill and to all people
your love that surpasses understanding.
May we with the whole earth
praise your goodness now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Welcome one another
as God has welcomed you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Songs without Words

Worship Participants

Acolyte	Jackson Ecklund-Baker
Readers	Nataline Morrison Elisabeth Ring
Preaching	Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner
Baptism	Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Presiding	Rev. Deaconess Rebecca West-Estell
Music	Paul Schreiner

FEB. 7, 1973

AP BULLETIN – URGENT

(VALPARAISO) -- A STUDENT OF VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THE EARTH SHAKING NEWS THAT HE IS TERRIBLY IN LOVE WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND BACK HOME. THE STUDENT, WILLIAM ILTZSCHE, OF COLLEGE POINT, NEW YORK, PROFESSED HIS LOVE TODAY TO DIANA DICKHARDT OF MASPETH, NEW YORK. THIS NEWS COMES AS A GREAT SHOCK TO ALL THE GIRLS OF VALPARAISO, ENDING THEIR DREAMS OF SOMEDAY BEING ASKED OUT BY THE SUAVE , DEBONAIRE, AND HANDSOME ILTZSCHE. IN A NEWS CONFERENCE JUST MINUTES AGO, ILTZSCHE SAID,

" I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED MY DIANA AND ALWAYS WILL. AND NOW I FEEL THAT THE WHOLE WORLD SHOULD KNOW." ILTZSCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE AND THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE WILL BE MARRIED SOMETIME IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE .

AP #38629-55016

**Bill created this during his DJ shift at the WVUR radio station during his sophomore year at Valparaiso University. *THE REST IS HISTORY !*