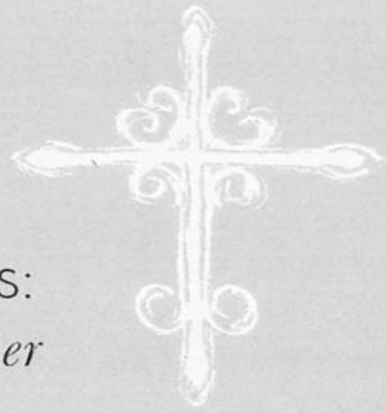
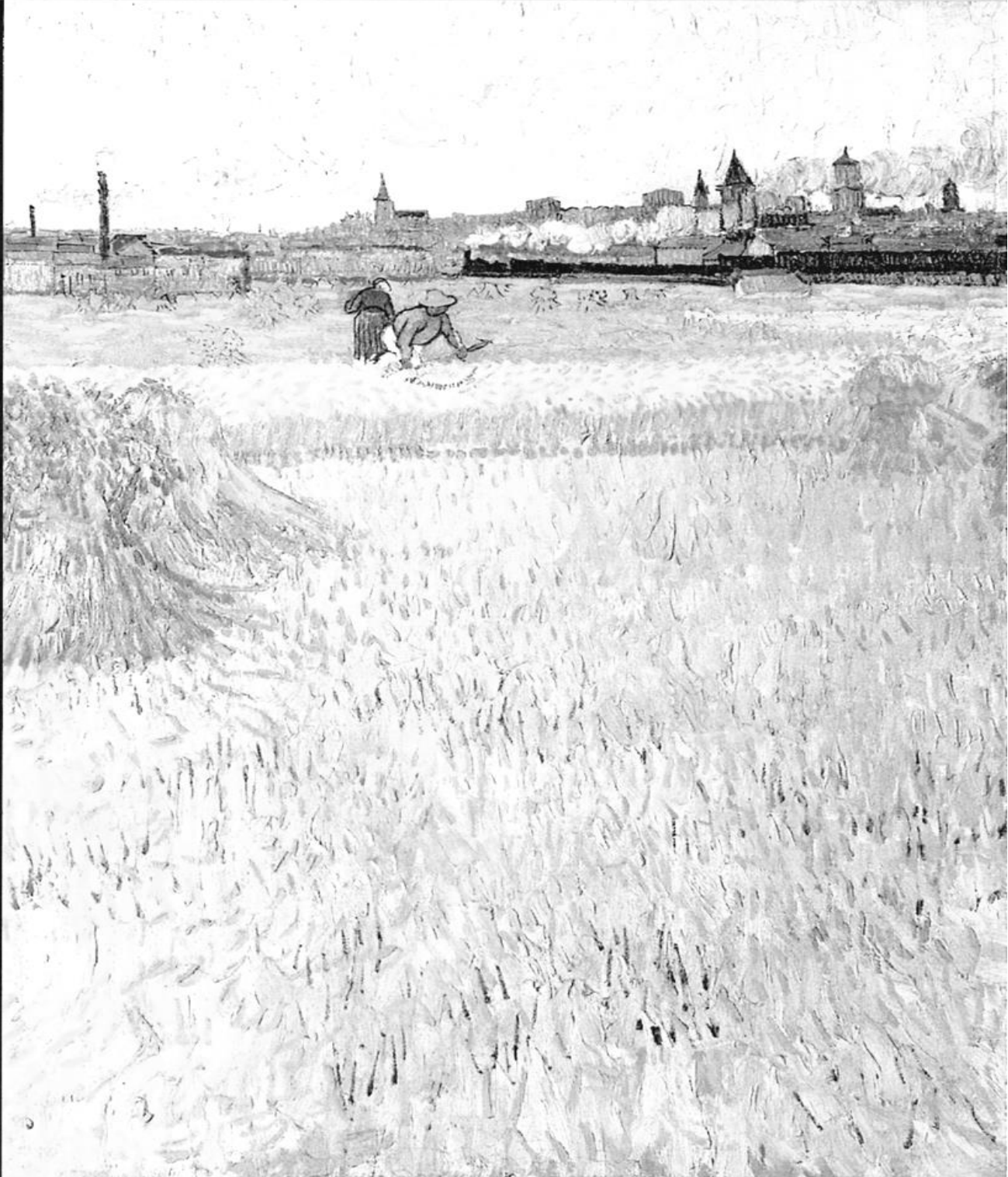


Christ

in the strangest places:
Foreshadowed, Fulfilled, Forever



"INVEST"





LENT

Pastor Timothy Millie, Immanuel-Sweet Springs

ABOUT "CHRIST IN THE STRANGEST PLACES"

Two tablets of stone, a few vessels of oil, simple markings, a small army, a remote field, a solemn oath--these are some of the strangest people, places and things through which God revealed himself to his people in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is chock-full of passion themes, from the serpent being crushed in Genesis 3:15 to Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song. Yet this series looks at some of the lesser-known Old Testament passion themes and focuses on them by means of single words.

Pre-Service Music

(Please use this time for prayerful listening and preparation. Prayers can be found on the inside cover of the hymnal and on pages 305-318).

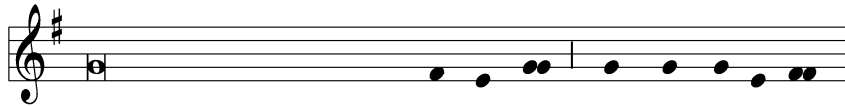
Welcome

Silent Prayer

Compline

Stand

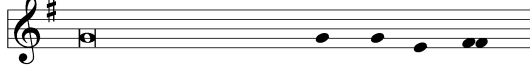
Opening Versespage 253



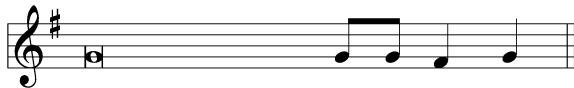
T The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last



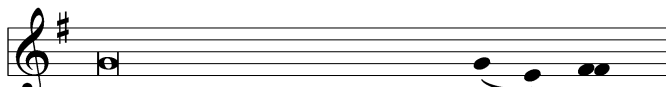
C A - men.



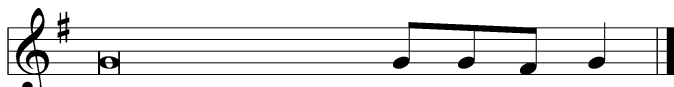
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



L to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

Confessionpage 254

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

L I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

L The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 98 (spoken in unison)

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands;

let the hills sing for joy together

before the LORD, for he comes

to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

Sit

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 44

“But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!

2 Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you from the womb and will help you:

Fear not, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.

4 They shall spring up among the grass
like willows by flowing streams.

5 This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’s,’
another will call on the name of Jacob,
and another will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’
and name himself by the name of Israel.”

6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.[a]

Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

8 Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

9 All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. 10 Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? 11 Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together.

12 The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. 13 The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil.[b] He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. 14 He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. 15 Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. 16 Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, “Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!” 17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for you are my god!”

18 They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. 19 No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, “Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?” 20 He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?”

21 Remember these things, O Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;

I formed you; you are my servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

23 Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it;
 shout, O depths of the earth;
 break forth into singing, O mountains,
 O forest, and every tree in it!
 For the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
 and will be glorified[c] in Israel.
 24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer,
 who formed you from the womb:
 "I am the LORD, who made all things,
 who alone stretched out the heavens,
 who spread out the earth by myself,
 25 who frustrates the signs of liars
 and makes fools of diviners,
 who turns wise men back
 and makes their knowledge foolish,
 26 who confirms the word of his servant
 and fulfills the counsel of his messengers,
 who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,'
 and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built,
 and I will raise up their ruins';
 27 who says to the deep, 'Be dry;
 I will dry up your rivers';
 28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,
 and he shall fulfill all my purpose';
 saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,'
 and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

(silence for reflection)

Second Reading.....1 Peter 2:4-12

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious,
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone,"[a]

8 and

"A stone of stumbling,
 and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

(silence for reflection)

Stand

Holy GospelJohn 17:1-26

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

6 "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them

to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.[a] 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them[b] in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself,[c] that they also may be sanctified[d] in truth. 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

(silence for reflection)

Responsorypages 255-256



L In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Sit

Homily "Invest"

Hymn for Reflection "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (LSB) #423"

Offering

Stand

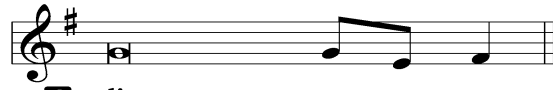
Prayer

Prayer Responsespage 256

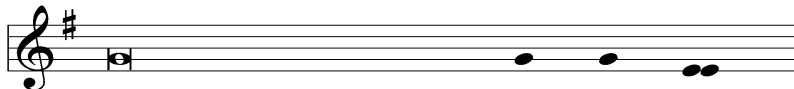
Prayer



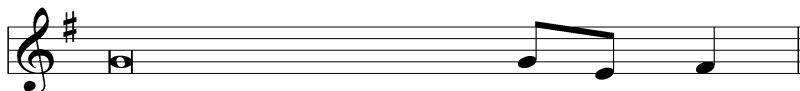
L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



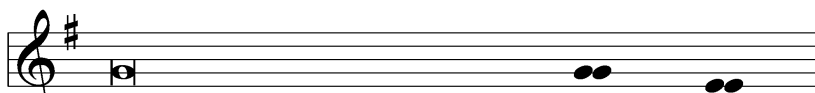
C listen to my cry.



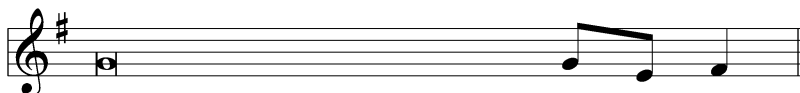
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.



L In righteousness I shall see You;



C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.



C A - men.

Prayer of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning, and though we have in no way deserved your goodness, you still abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we pray, your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

- P** Divine Spirit, teach us the life of loving service we ought to live to God out of gratitude for his love, which sacrificed Christ for our sins. Through the death of his Son he has made us his very own.
- C** **Help us, therefore, to be dedicated wholly to him, freeing our energies, our abilities, our time, and our possessions--yes, what we are, and what we have--from a life of serving self to a life of serving God. Do this, dear Sanctifier, by filling us with the love of Christ.**
- P** O Lord, you have made us your stewards in a special way, entrusting us with your holy Word. Teach us that this Word is meant for our own continual use.
- C** **Help us and guide us so that we may determine how best to serve you as stewards of your Word. Help us determine what portion of our time, energies, and talents we will use for God's work in the congregation with its various programs. And help us determine what portion of our earthly possessions we will use to support the ministry of the divine Word.**

P O Holy Spirit, bless the offerings of time, talent, and treasure that we make to God for his kingdom. Let them be for each of us a delightful privilege and self-evident fruits of our personal faith.

C Forgive all those times when we have failed to be good stewards. Inspire us to dedicate to God's use all that we are and all that we have. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Collects

Lord's Prayer.....page 257

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis.....page 258



L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing



that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.



C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.



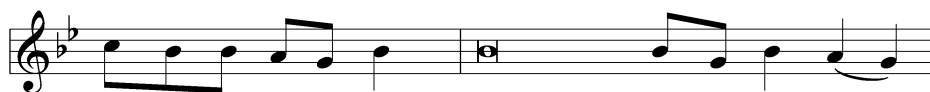
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared



in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to reveal You to the na - tions



and the glory of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the



Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -

ev - er. A - men. *Antiphon* Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,

and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may

watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction.....page 259

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the ✠ Son,

and the Holy Spir - it, bless us and keep us.

C A - men.

Parting Hymn..... "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" #422 (LSB)

Dismissal

The Promise of Baptism

He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be condemned (Mark 16:16)

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Now you may want to say: I seem to hear, then, that Baptism is also a part of faith. Of course, it is; but Baptism is not a work that we accomplish. It must be associated with faith because God desires that faith should not remain hidden in the heart but rather break out into the open so that it may be recognized and become manifest before the world.

Therefore, He has ordained these outward signs so that everyone can make known and confess his faith, in order that there may be opportunity also to take up the holy cross. For if faith were to remain buried secretly in the heart, people would be quite safe and no obliged to bear the cross or to follow after Christ. For if the worker did not know that we believe, we would not be persecuted.

Second, no one would be helped by us and be brought to faith if we did not openly confess the Gospel and if we had no outward sign by which people could tell who and where Christians are. But now God has decreed that our faith should be manifest before the unbelievers; therefore, anyone who is now a Christian and has had himself baptized stands in danger that the unbelievers and the non-Christians may lay hold of him and kill him. Therefore, it is necessary that we be baptized, if we are Christian; or if we should not be able to achieve it, we should at least say, I would like to be baptized.

Moreover, the sign has also been given us for this reason that God Himself wants to help us, and that we should be assured of His grace, and that each person should be able to say: God has given me a special token that I may be certain I am saved, as He has promised me through the Gospel. For He has given us the Gospel, which is the charter; and beside the Gospel He has given us Baptism, which is the seal. Thus faith, which lays hold of the Gospel, is fortified by this special token and seal. (*Alone with God: Devotions from Martin Luther; CPH, 1962.*)

*He that believes and is baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
He is a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption he shall stand
Among the glorious heavenly hand
Of every tribe and Nation*