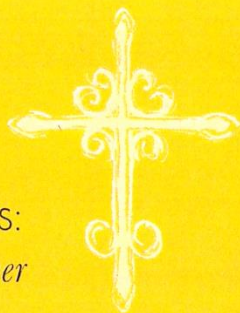
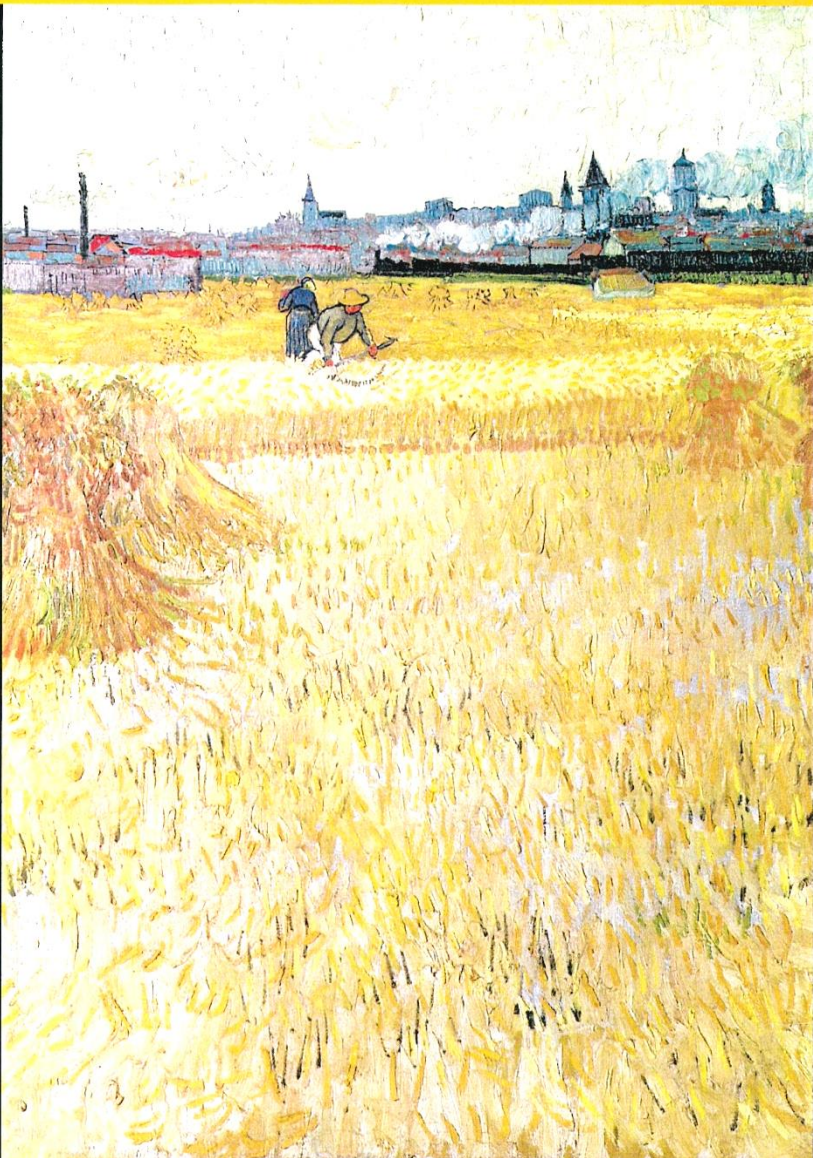


Christ

in the strangest places:
Foreshadowed, Fulfilled, Forever



“ INVEST ”





LENT

Pastor Alan Mueller, 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.

Welcome

Silent Prayer

Compline

Stand

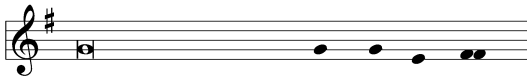
Opening Verses



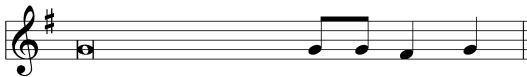
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



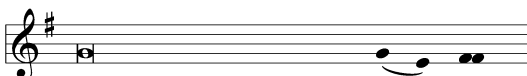
C A - men.



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.

Confession

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

Silence for self-examination.

L Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

L By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C Amen.

Psalm 24:1-6 (*spoken in unison*)

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Sit

Office Hymn..... "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" (v. 1-4) #609 (LSB)



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Jeremiah 32:1-9, 16-17, 24-25

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah. Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, "Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will capture it. Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape out of the hands of the Babylonians but will certainly be handed over to the king of Babylon, and will speak with him face to face and see him with his own eyes. He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will remain until I deal with him, declares the LORD. If you fight against the Babylonians, you will not succeed.'"

Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.' "Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right

to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.' "I knew that this was the word of the LORD; so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver.

"After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD: "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be handed over to the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. And though the city will be handed over to the Babylonians, you, O Sovereign LORD, say to me, 'Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.'"

(silence for reflection)

Second Reading Jeremiah 32:36-44

"You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon'; but this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.

"This is what the LORD says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them. Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without men or animals, for it has been handed over to the Babylonians.' Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."

(silence for reflection)

Stand

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:44-46, 53-54

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed.

(silence for reflection)

Responsory

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..... “In God, My Faithful God” #745 (LSB)

1 In God, my faith - ful God, I trust when dark my road;
 2 My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not de - spair.
 3 If death my por - tion be, It brings great gain to me;
 4 O Je - sus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,
 5 “So be it,” then, I say With all my heart each day.

Great woes may o - ver-take me, Yet He will not for - sake me.
 I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock noth - ing moves me.
 It speeds my life’s en - deav - or To live with Christ for - ev - er.
 You suf - fered death to save us Be - cause Your love would have us
 Dear Lord, we all a - dore You, We sing for joy be - fore You.



My trou-bles He can al - ter; His hand lets noth - ing fal - ter.
 To Him I will sur - ren - der, To Him, my soul's de - fend - er.
 He gives me joy in sor - row, Come death now or to - mor - row.
 Be heirs of heav'n-ly glad - ness When ends this life of sad - ness.
 Guide us while here we wan - der Un - til we praise You yon - der.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Prayers

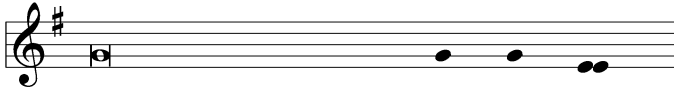
Responses



L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



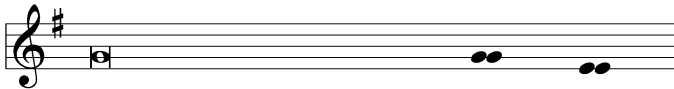
C listen to my cry.



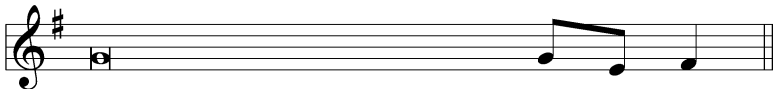
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



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.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Nunc Dimittis

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.

■ 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 -
Antiphon
ev - er. A - men. 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

Parting Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #427 (LSB)



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Tune and text: Public domain

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*