

Sola Lenten Dramas

HOW TO BE A DISCIPLE

*The Reflections of a
Contemporary Twelve*

Written by the Rev. John Wolf

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Matthew and Simon

“On choosing sides”

**Themes: Division, community,
reconciliation**

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING DIALOG

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste, O Lord, to help me.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OPENING HYMN.....“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

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1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three numbered lines of text.

He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul he does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on his breast re - cline.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text.

I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;

Clean in his blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
 Tune: Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

MUNICH
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SALUTATION & PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common prayers to you. You have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. Answer, O Lord, our desires and petitions as you determine best for us — granting us, in this world, the knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, everlasting life in you. Amen. (Based on a Prayer of St. Chrysostom)

FIRST 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,”

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.

PSALM (Read Responsively).....Psalm 37

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!

**² For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.**

³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

**⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.

**⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

**8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**

9 For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be
there.**

11 But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

**12 The wicked plots against the righteous
and gnashes his teeth at him,**

13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he sees that his day is coming.

**14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright;**

15 their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.

**16 Better is the little that the righteous has
than the abundance of many wicked.**

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.

**18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will remain forever;**

19 they are not put to shame in evil times;
in the days of famine they have abundance.

**20 But the wicked will perish;
the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the
pastures;**

they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

21 The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
but the righteous is generous and gives;

**22 for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land,
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.**

23 The steps of a man are established by the Lord,
when he delights in his way;

**24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,
for the Lord upholds his hand.**

25 I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging for bread.

- 26 He is ever lending generously,
and his children become a blessing.**
- 27 Turn away from evil and do good;
so shall you dwell forever.
- 28 For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his saints.
They are preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.**
- 29 The righteous shall inherit the land
and dwell upon it forever.
- 30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.**
- 31 The law of his God is in his heart;
his steps do not slip.
- 32 The wicked watches for the righteous
and seeks to put him to death.**
- 33 The Lord will not abandon him to his power
or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.
- 34 Wait for the Lord and keep his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.**
- 35 I have seen a wicked, ruthless man,
spreading himself like a green laurel tree.
- 36 But he passed away, and behold, he was no more;
though I sought him, he could not be found.**
- 37 Mark the blameless and behold the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.
- 38 But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the future of the wicked shall be cut off.**
- 39 The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.
- 40 The Lord helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**

GOSPEL READING Luke 9:46-56

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

SPECIAL MUSIC Men’s Choir
“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

(Many others already have noted how different these two apostles must have been, at least in their political outlook. Matthew, a tax collector, would have to cooperate with the Roman authorities to make a living. Simon, a member of the Zealot party, was in active rebellion against the Romans. In this drama, these two are cast in a debate like those of modern political candidates, but here we are asked to imagine them running for the office of apostle.)

DRAMA Debate Moderator – Kathy Keller
Matthew – Brad Sheldon
Simon – Mac Beaudry

HYMN “In Christ There Is No East or West”

In Christ There Is No East or West

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C G7 C F7 Bb F C F Am Dm7 G7 C
 1 In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north,
 2 In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry-where Their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 Join hands then, broth - ers of the faith, What - e'er your race may be.
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north;
 Am C Am C G9 C G7 C F C G7 C
 But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 His ser - vice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.
 Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
 All Christ - ly souls are one in him Through - out the whole wide earth.

© Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941
 © Tune: Negro spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

MCKEE
 C.M.

REFLECTION Pastor Chuck Mann

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Said in unison)

God of love, you have provided for our every need from your abundant bounty. Grant us grateful hearts that we may give generously to those in need and thereby show your love to the world around us. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us join together in confessing our faith with the saints who have gone before us, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYERS

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

The congregation responding at the end of each petition:

*P: ... Lord in your mercy. C: **Hear our prayer.***

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

P: Hear our petitions, O Lord, as we entrust our lives into your care this night.

C: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray together the prayer our Savior taught us:

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.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

The minister blesses the congregation:

P: May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us peace and rest this night. May he watch over us until a new day has dawned, and may our hearts rejoice in his saving

power; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen.

P: Let us bless the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

THE WORD

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might-y for-tress is our God, A sword and shield vic-
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re-
3 Though hordes of dev-ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de-
4 God's Word for-ev-er shall a-bide, No thanks to foes, who

to-ri-ous; He breaks the cruel op-pres-sor's rod And
ject-ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, Whom
vour us, We trem-ble not, un-moved we stand; They
fear it; For God him-self fights by our side With

wins sal-va-tion glo-ri-ous. The old sa-tan-ic foe
God him-self e-lect-ed. You ask who this may be?
can-not o-ver-pow'r us. Let this world's ty-rant rage;
weap-ons of the Spir-it. Were they to take our house,

Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread-ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way,

He arms him-self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 They can - not win the day. The King-dom's ours for - ev - er!

© Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version, 1978
 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

EIN FESTE BURG
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POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR..... Pastor Chuck Mann
 READER..... Donna Sommer
 ORGANIST..... Theresa Petersen
 USHERS/GREETERS Rick & LeAnn Richard
 ALTAR GUILD Janet Hanson & Theresa Petersen
 SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Rick & LeAnn Richard

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Lenten Meals & Worship

Thank you FLY for serving the meal tonight. Join us next Wednesday, March 10th, for our Lenten meal served by the Stewardship Committee from 5:30 – 6:45 pm. They will be serving sloppy joes and nachos. Free-will offering going toward the stewardship budget. Join us after the meal for our Lenten Worship drama series, “How to be a Disciple: The Reflections of a Contemporary Twelve” at 7:00 pm. The themes will be: Family, rivalry, unconditional love.

Men, Women, Teenagers Needed

Looking for men, women and teenagers to be part of the Lenten Drama series on Wednesday nights! Save Pastor Chuck the headache of finding people and volunteer yourself now by talking to Pastor Chuck. Don't make us go looking for you!

Kitchen Items

Kitchen items that have not been claimed are on a table in the narthex for a free-will donation to FLCW. Items remaining after March 17th will be given to the McLean County Resource Center.