

*her.* And Satan entered Judas surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve, and he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them, and he said: What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? When they heard it, they were glad, and they gave him 30 pieces of silver. And from that time he sought an opportunity to betray Him in the absence of the multitude. Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover must be killed, the disciples came to Jesus and said to Him: Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover? And He sent Peter and John and said: *Go into the city; behold, when you enter, a man will meet you, who is carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters and say to the owner of the house: The Master says to you: My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house. Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large furnished upper room; there make ready.* They went and found it as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And in the evening He came and sat at the table with the Twelve Apostles and said to them: *With desire I have desired to eat the Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you that I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.*

And He took the cup, gave thanks and said: *Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you: I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes on the day when I will drink again with you in My Father's kingdom.*

And while they ate in the night that He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: *Take, eat, this is My Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.* In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, gave it to them and said: *Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.* And they all drank from it.

Now before the Feast of Passover, which is on the same evening, when Jesus knew that His hour had come, that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own, who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dried them with the towel, with which He had girded Himself.

Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him: Lord, are You washing my feet? Jesus answered and said to him: *What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.* Peter said to Him: You shall never wash my feet! Jesus answered him: *If I do not wash you, then you have no part with Me.* Simon Peter said to Him: Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus said to him: *He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.* For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said: You are not all clean.

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments and sat down again, He said to them: *Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord and you say well, for so I am; I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly I say to you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me. Now I tell you before it comes, that when it comes to pass, you may believe that I am He. Most assuredly, I say to you: He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*

*(Here ends the first Passion History Reading)*



## I. The Service of Vespers ELH p.120



**WELCOME: 03/12/14 LENT1(B)MIDWEEK INVOCATION (Please rise.)**

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. C:*  
**Amen.**

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS** *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

**C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.**

### THE ABSOLUTION

*P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### OPENING HYMN: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELH #286 TOPLADY

- 1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, - Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood - From Thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure; - Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**
- 2. Not the labours of my hands - Can fulfill Thy Law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know, - Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; - Thou must save, and Thou alone.**
- 3. Nothing in my hand I bring, - Simply to Thy Cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress, - Helpless, look to Thee for grace.  
Foul, I to the fountain fly - Wash me, Saviour, or I die!**
- 4. While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, - See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME, - LET ME HIDE MYSELF IN THEE!**

### The VERSICLES ELH, p.120

*P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.*

*P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.*

**The GLORIA PATRI** **C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and- to- the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men.**

📖 Here are the words to **Psalm 6** - Please READ along! 📖  
*O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.*

**2 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.**

*3 My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD – how long?*

**4 Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!**

*5 For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?*

**6 I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.**

*7 My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies.*

**8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.**

*9 The LORD has heard my supplication; The LORD will receive my prayer.*

**10 Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, one True God, now and forever. Amen**

**PASSION HISTORY: 1<sup>ST</sup> READING ✕ Preparation of Passover Lamb**

**RESPONSORY P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

**SERMON HYMN: "Lift High the Cross" ELH #194 TUNE: CRUCIFIER**

**Refrain: Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.**

- 1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of- God in congu'ring ranks combine. Refrain: Lift ...**
- 2. Each newborn soldier of the Crucified  
Bears on his- brow the seal of Him who died. Refrain: Lift high ...**
- 3. This is the sign which Satan's legions fear  
And angels- veil their faces to revere. Refrain: Lift high ...**
- 4. Saved by this Cross where-on their Lord was slain,  
The sons of- Adam their lost home regain. Refrain: Lift high**
- 5. For Thy blest Cross which doth for all atone  
Creation's- praises rise before Thy Throne. Final Refrain Lift high...**

**SERMON SERIES: "GARDEN TO GLORY" TONIGHT "PROCLAMATION"**

**The VERSICLE P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before you as incense:**

**C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands-- As the ev'ning sacrifice.**

**NUNC DIMITTIS ("Lord, Let Us Depart in Peace" ...music on page 124)**

- C: ♪**
- 1. Lord, now You let Your servant ... de-part in peace:  
Accord-... ..-ing to You Word.**
  - 2. For mine eyes have seen... Your Sal-va-tion;  
Which You have prepared before the face... of all peo-ple.**
  - 3. A-- Light to light- ... -en the Gen-tiles:  
And the glory of Your... peo-ple Isra-el.**

**4. Glory be to the Father ... and to the Son / And to... the Holy Ghost;  
5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and... ever shall be / Forev-... er-more, A-men.**

**KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy) C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The LORD'S PRAYER C: ♪ Our Father, Who art in heaven... A- -men.**

**The (Evening) COLLECT (Pastor prays, Cong. Amen) C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The BENEDICAMUS P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

**The BENEDICTION P: ♪ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: ♪ A- -men.**

**CLOSING HYMN Now the Light Has Gone Away ELH #570 MÜDE BIN ICH**

- 1. Now the light has gone away; - Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep - And to send me quiet sleep.**
- 2. Jesus, Savior, wash away - All that has been wrong today;  
Help me every day to be - Good and gentle, more like Thee.**
- 3. Let my near and dear ones be - Always near and dear to Thee.  
Oh, bring me and all I love - To Thy happy home above.**
- 4. Now my evening praise I give; - Thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from Thee; - Oh, how good Thou art to me!**
- 5. Thou, my best and kindest Friend, - Thou wilt love me to the end.  
Let me love Thee more and more, - Always better than before.**

**Silent Prayer (Candles out.) You may be seated. FELLOWSHIP**

**History of Suffering & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Four Evangelists + harmonised by Dr. Johann Bugenhagen  
compiled from the New King James Version ©1979, 1980, 1982  
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[compiled by M. DeGarmeaux]

**FIRST READING ✕ The Preparation of the Passover Lamb**

And it was near the feast of unleavened bread, which is called Passover. And Jesus said to His disciples: *You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be betrayed, to be crucified.*

Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled together in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted that they might take Jesus by trickery and kill Him, for they feared the people. But they said: Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people. Now when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him, having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she broke the flask and poured it on His head as He sat at the table. When His disciples saw this, they were indignant, saying: To what purpose is this waste? For this fragrant oil could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and given to the poor, and they criticised her sharply. But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them: *Let her alone; why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and when you wish, you may do them good, but Me you do not always have. She has done what she could. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to*

**LENT-1(W) Mark 4:26-29 “THE GARDEN OF PROCLAMATION” 03.12.14 OSL**  
**2014-LENT MIDWEEK: FROM GARDEN TO GLORY**

**TONIGHT INTRODUCTION** Last Wednesday we witnessed God planting the very first seed of our salvation. We heard him utter the very first Gospel promise in the Garden of Eden. It was the promise to give us a Savior—a rescuer—from sin, death, and damnation. Jesus Christ is our Savior. By his own sufferings and death on the cross, he has saved us from everything that would keep us out of heaven.

But how does God bring us salvation from Jesus? How does He give us rescue from death and damnation and make it ours? That’s what we will focus on tonight: (THEME) in the Garden of **Proclamation**.

God proclaims His promise of Salvation in Jesus to us. That means He **tells us**. When He tells us, He is at the same time *giving* it to us. How does God tell us? He does **not** ask us to wait for some inner feeling or experience to make something real to us. God arranged something outside of us. God had it all written down for us on the pages of **the Bible. It’s His Holy Word**.

God also instituted the holy ministry and publicly appointed certain individuals in the church to speak to us for him. God even backs up any mom or dad or any believer at all. Whenever any believer speaks the truth of God’s Word from the Bible, it is the same as God himself proclaiming it and giving it to you. Jesus said things like, “Go . . . and preach the good news to all creation” (**Mark 16:15**). He who listens to you listens to me” (**Luke 10:16**). The apostle Paul wrote, “How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (**Romans 10:14**).

Whenever God speaks to us through his representatives who speak his Word, he is planting the seed of salvation in us. We, who were created from the dust of the earth, are his soil. And when God plants his Word in us, new life emerges—never-ending life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says in **Mark chapter 4**, (TEXT) **“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come” (verses 26-29).**

Christ’s words remind us of what Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism: *“How does God’s Kingdom come?... God’s Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.”*

**0.** God “waters” that initial seed. This happened for most of us in **Baptism**.

**1.** God proclaims. He plants the Word in us, and it becomes a garden of life and salvation. So long ago, maybe through your pastor when you were 12 years old in confirmation class, he planted a single seed in you. It was such a small seed. You thought nothing of it at the time. That seed seemed like it was lying dormant in you for so long - until the Holy Spirit warmed it and it immediately sprang into full bloom when you were 20 years old and your significant other said, *“Let’s move in together. We love each other. We’re*

*getting married anyway. It’s cheaper, more practical this way.”* From out of nowhere, you recall something your pastor said so long ago, and you respond, *“I can’t betray my Savior that way.”* And you realize that someone who wants to take you down that kind of path is not the kind of person you want to marry or raise children with. *The Garden of Proclamation blossoms.*

**2.** A small mission congregation (or maybe a nearly-30 year old congo) for decades always remained about the same size - 30 or 40 souls. But in that time it served hundreds of members with the Gospel. It reached tens of thousands through fliers. It broadcasted potentially to millions through the radio. *The Garden of Proclamation spreads like ivy.*

**3.** A mother complains that she has to keep “straightening out” her daughter on religion. You see, this mother doesn’t believe that God’s salvation is free. She thinks whether or not you’re saved is up to you. She thinks that sending her child to a Lutheran school is no big deal. After all, Christian is Christian, right? But her daughter keeps coming home with an alarming certainty for someone too young to make that decision: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” Mother isn’t used to that from her church. But the little girl persists. *The Garden of Proclamation resists being trimmed back.*

**4.** You are a teenager who went to church this morning. You didn’t think you heard anything relevant to your life in the service. You go with your friend to the mall in the afternoon. She’s very upset about her parents. She talks about committing suicide. Something from the morning service jumps into your thoughts, something about the peace of God guarding your hearts and minds. You want her to have that peace. Maybe she’ll talk to your pastor. *The Garden of Proclamation reaches for new soil.*

**5.** Or maybe in the privacy of your pastor’s office you unload to him what you’ve been hiding for so long. You wouldn’t dare tell another soul. You’re half afraid that the pastor will think differently of you. To your great surprise he smiles and speaks like he has some sort of authority, like he is some sort of spokesman making an announcement. He reminds you that you are Baptized and says, *“You are forgiven.”* Your guilt is lifted away. You are restored. Your emotions start to settle. Your stomach no longer feels queasy. *The Garden of Proclamation is watered and nourished.*

**6.** You are 80 years old. You’re so frustrated. You just can’t seem to get your thoughts together. When you talk, it makes sense to you, but not to anybody else. You feel like a stranger in a foreign land. But when your pastor visits you and begins reciting the Apostles Creed, you feel like you are in the comfort of home again. He’s talking your language. You can say every word with him clearly. *The Garden of Proclamation is evergreen.*

**7.** You didn’t see that car speeding through the intersection. Who are these uniforms all around you, talking and working so frantically? Their voices fade. You can’t feel a thing. Everything goes dark. And then you hear a voice: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” *The Garden of Proclamation is harvested! In Jesus’ Name, Amen. SDG*