



📖 Here are the words to **Psalm 130** - Please READ along! 📖

*P: Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;*

**C: <sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.**

<sup>3</sup> *If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?*

<sup>4</sup> **But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His Word I do hope.*

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning – Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> *O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant Redemption.*

<sup>8</sup> **And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.**

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

**PASSION HISTORY: 2<sup>ND</sup> READING ✕ *The Supper Finished; Judas Iscariot***

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

**SERMON HYMN: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” ELH 429 : GETHSEMANE**

1. Chief of sinners though I be, - Jesus shed His blood for me;  
Died that I might live on high, - Lived that I might never die,  
As the branch is to the vine, - I am His, and He is mine.
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love! - Higher than the heavens above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, - Lasting as eternity.  
Love that found me-wondrous thought! - Found me when I sought Him not.
3. Jesus only can impart - Balm to heal the smitten heart;  
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, - Joy that lifts the soul to heaven;  
Faith and hope to walk with God - In the way that Enoch trod.
4. Chief of sinner though I be, - Christ is All in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known, - All my sorrows are His own.  
Safe with Him from earthly strife, - He sustains the hidden life.
5. O my Savior, help afford - By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray, - Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply - While I live and when I die.

**SERMON SERIES: “GARDEN TO GLORY” TONIGHT “G. OF REPENTANCE”  
The OFFERING**

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

**C: Let 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: Let**
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.

✕ p.2 ✕ ( *Nunc Dimittis continues on p.3 ↗* )

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: Let Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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

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

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

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

**CLOSING HYMN “All Praise to Thee, My God this Night” #565 EVENING**

1. All praise to Thee, my God, this night - For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings, - Beneath Thy own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy- dear- Son, - The ill that I this day- have- done  
That with the world, myself and Thee, - I, ere- I- sleep, at peace may be.

2. Teach me to live that I may dread - The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die that so I may - Rise glorious at the awe-full Day.

Oh, may my soul on Thee repose, And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vigorous make - To serve my God when I awake.

3. When in the night I sleepless lie, - My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest, - No powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: - PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST.

**Silent Prayer (Candles out.) You may be seated. ✕ p.3 ✕ 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]

**SECOND READING ✕ Supper Over; Judas Iscariot Betrayal**

When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit and testified and said: *Most assuredly I tell you: One of you, who eats with Me, will betray Me. Behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.* And the disciples began to be sorrowful, and they looked at one another and were perplexed about whom He spoke. And they began to ask among themselves who it might be among them, who would do this, and they said to Him one after the other: Lord, is it I? He answered and said: *One of the Twelve, who dips with Me in the dish, will betray Me. The Son of Man goes as it is has been determined, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed, it would be better for him that that man had never been born.* And Judas answered and said: Rabbi, is it I? And He said to him: *You have said it.*

Now there was at the table leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore nodded to him that he ...

LENT-2(W) Luke 13:1-9 "THE GARDEN OF REPENTANCE" 03.19.14 OSL

2014-LENT MIDWEEK: FROM GARDEN TO GLORY

TONIGHT INTRODUCTION Two weeks ago we heard God announce in the Garden of Eden the very first Promise to send us a Savior. Last week we focused on how God announces or Proclaims the promise of Salvation in Christ to the whole world. Today we look at God's objective in proclaiming Christ to us. We might call it the Garden of Repentance.

READ TEXT: Luke 13:1-9 NIV Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." 6 Then He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Why was there a 9-11? Why and How could an entire plane and 239 passengers just disappear after leaving Malaysia? Why are people including Christians fighting, suffering and dying in Ukraine and Crimea? (Closer to home – OSL) Why are (so many of) Our family loved ones and members of Our church family suffering with ailments ...all at once?

Is it God's judgment on all those people for being sinners? It's true that in a general sense we all suffer because of sin. But we cannot read the mind of God to know why certain people suffer particularly harsh things. That's a mystery hidden in God's unsearchable will.

If we haven't suffered a tragedy like these, does that mean you and I are innocent, or at least less sinful? NO. We're no less sinful than people who suffer tragedy. Rather, God makes it clear in the Bible that He wants all of us to take all such events to heart. He wants such events to strike fear so that we examine our own hearts and lives for sin and then repent. He desires to change our thinking on things so that we turn to him for rescue.

Part of the problem that stands in the way of us having a relationship with God is that we tend to think we are fine and okay just the way we are. God describes us on our own as being totally evil and incapable of good down to the bottom of our hearts. But we don't perceive that or feel it in ourselves. We usually feel quite justified in what we do. In our day and age, nobody wants to talk about sin and us being evil. (For

churches,) That kind of talk just doesn't sell. Rather, we'd like the idea of God to even bring on warm feelings of a big Friend. We prefer not to think about and feel His anger. We don't tend to move under a sense that God's judgment is upon us.

So God may allow even bad things to wake us up to what the situation really is. If sinfulness in general can bring on such horrible things such as car accidents, disease, earthquakes, and loneliness here on earth, it is downright scary to imagine what kinds of punishments our sins would bring on us for eternity in hell.

That's the point Jesus is making here in Luke 13. We are to use earthly disasters NOT to say, "Hah! those people are getting theirs!" but rather, "Lord, have mercy on me!" As we (re)read from Luke chapter 13,

Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were guiltier than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." (verses 2-5)

But then Jesus tells us something altogether different about our God. He uses a Parable about a Garden to illustrate God's loving patience with us. We might call it the Garden of Repentance. We read: "Then [Jesus] told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.'" (verse 6).

Now note the amazing patience of the Gardener: "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down'" (verses 8,9). Yet another year he gives it. Granted, eventually, if the tree doesn't change, it'll be cut down. But this man is in no hurry. He puts it off, like he wants to avoid doing the tree any harm. To the contrary, He gives it more TLC than ever before. He wants to give the (unfruitful) tree every last chance.

When I see or hear of some tragedy, instead of thinking, "How could a loving God do that to those people!" I can conclude, "Wow, look how patient God has been with me! He hasn't cut me down yet! I'm not any better than those poor people. I am sorry for their pain, and I'll do what I can to alleviate it." But at the same time, I will be grateful that God has given ME:

- yet another day to repent,
- yet another day to find where sin still exists in my life and shed it,
- yet another day to seek and be assured of His forgiveness,
- yet another day to serve Him with my life in gratitude of His forgiveness,

- yet another day to **tell others** the **Good News** of how God has rescued us from horrible things like **sin, tragedies, death, and hell** so that they might believe it too.

**That's why the Savior came. That's what Lent is about.** Jesus took on Himself the punishment that we had coming from God. When Jesus was hanging on the Cross, God aimed all of His divine, holy anger at Jesus. By Jesus' death on a Cross, God's justice on the human race was served. God had patience and forgiveness for all of us who don't deserve it, and let His own Son be "cut down and thrown into the fire" for us. God declares you and me and all people forgiven in Christ.

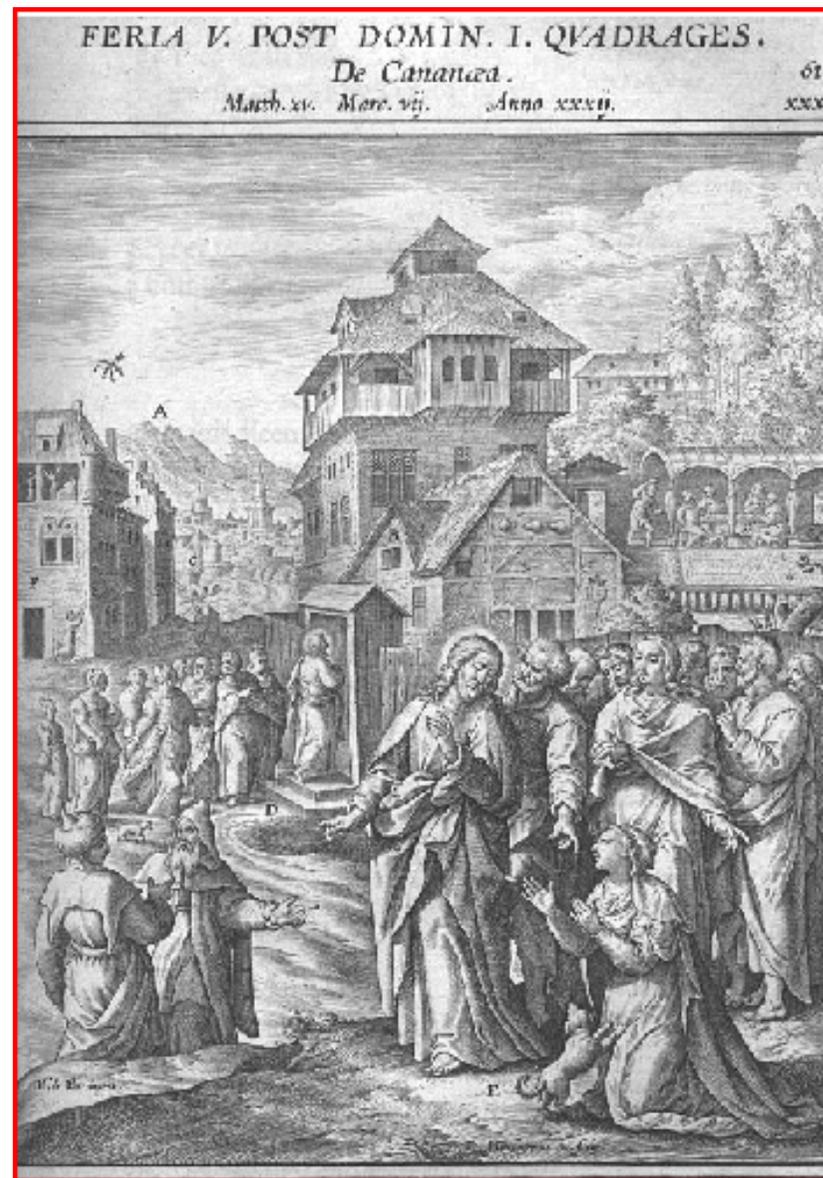
All who rely on Jesus Christ as their Savior now do really have God **as their friend**. Through faith in Jesus our sins are forgiven; tragedies, even personal **tragedies, for us who believe, are NOT punishments** but are now seen as God's loving governance for our good. Even **death** itself, for us who rely on Jesus, becomes nothing more than a joyful sleep from which we will awake one day and rise up from our graves to live with Christ forever in paradise. As we rely on Jesus, we are comforted that God has nothing but **all loving intentions toward us**. He's even reluctant to bring the world to a close as **He wants all people to still believe in Jesus as their Savior**.

How can I turn to Christ, and how can I know I have God's forgiveness? God himself meets me through **His Word**, whether written in the Bible or spoken, through **Baptism**, through the **Absolution**, and through the **Lord's Supper**. That's where He gives us His **Forgiveness** and where His **Spirit** changes our perspective on everything. No longer do we live under threat of judgment but, rather, under the **joyful shelter of God's love**. His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper - that's the rich plant-food which the Gardener in the parable uses year after year. That's the food by which the Holy Spirit keeps our reliance on Jesus alive, keeps our relationship with God alive. You can know it yourself: *"I have been Baptized. I have heard the Words of Forgiveness from the mouth of my pastor. I have received Christ's own Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper. I am loved by God. I **don't need to fear anything** that might happen to me on this earth."* We keep coming back for more, and God keeps giving it to us through Word and Sacraments so that **we stay green and living and fruitful** in our relationship with Him.

#### CONCLUSION

It was in a Garden (Eden), **by a tree, that sin** first entered the world. It was "on a tree" (the wood Cross) that **Jesus died and paid for the sins** of the whole world. By giving us faith in Christ, God makes us each a living tree that thrives in the Garden of Repentance. **In Jesus' Name, Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA  
Midweek Lent-2 *Wednesday*  Garden of Repentance  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014  4:30 pm



From "Illustrations of Gospel Stories" **Jerome Nadal** – **Matthew 15**  
A **Canaanite woman** approaches **Jesus**, requesting He heal her daughter.