

Praise Today

Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service

Volume 6, Number 3

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20/20 Vision

Rob Boe, WELS, New Mexico; John L. Hoh, Jr.

Rob Boe, a WELS member in New Mexico, wrote on the <LIFT> mail server about having 20:20 Vision like John. Interesting, when I looked up John 20:20, that it contained the account of Jesus showing his disciples the nail marks in his hands and feet after His resurrection. It sparked an interest in me on what other 20:20 passages say and if they give us 20:20 vision for our life with God, here and in eternity. I have found that there is an interesting variety and can be used for a sermon series!

Oh, by the way, Mr. Boe later wrote me and mentioned the passage he meant was John 12:21: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." That may make a fine theme for this series: "Lord, help us see Jesus with 20:20 Vision!"

This offering selects six of the seventeen 20:20 passages in Scripture. I also list the remaining 20:20 passages after the set series with ideas on how to implement them. If anyone uses this series in any form, let me know and share your experiences with Praise Today. You may wish to implement these passages into an accompanying or stand-alone Bible study series, especially with Old Testament passages which require more background knowledge than New Testament passages. CW= Christian Worship; LAPPY=Let All the People Praise You.

20:20 Vision: The Vision of Our God

TEXT—Ezekiel 20:20

"Keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

The first installement of this series establishes what our "20:20 Vision" focuses on—the LORD our God, Jahweh. By worshipping our LORD and God, we keep His Sabbaths holy.

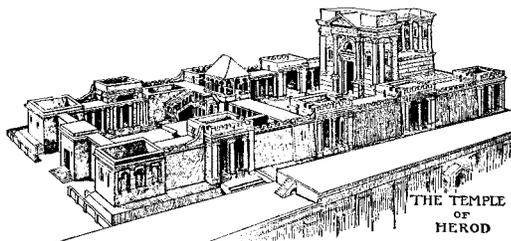
READINGS—Old Testament: Ezekiel 20:18-22

Psalms 122 or 133-134 (CW page 115) or 91 (LAPPY 248)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Gospel: Matthew 12:1-14

HYMNS—CW: 534, 532, 533; LAPPY: 14, 29, 304



20:20 Vision: A Vision of Faith

TEXT—2 Chronicles 20:20

Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

The second installement of this series speaks of faith in the LORD our God, having faith in His Word as recorded by His prophets.

READINGS—Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 20:20-30

Psalms 1 (CW page 64) or 18 (CW page 69)

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:12-21

Gospel: John 8:12-30

HYMNS—CW: 281, 291, 284, 293; LAPPY: 71, 106, 336

(LAPPY 336 has wording that may not reflect sound Lutheran doctrine. The last line of the third verse says: "The cross speaks this advice: 'Trust me, Jesus Christ.'" You may want to change the words to: "The cross speaks this advice: 'Trust him, Jesus Christ.'")

20:20 Vision: The Vision of Our True Treasure

TEXT—Job 20:20

“Surely he will have no respite from his craving; he cannot save himself by his treasure.”

This installment shows that our treasure—whether we see our treasure as wealth or self-righteousness—cannot save us. We crave for anything that fills our empty lives apart from God. But we are only saved through the blood of Christ.

This passage is part of Zophar’s “scolding” of Job. While we view the advice and “comfort” of Job’s friends as misguided and ineffective, nevertheless there are some truths expressed by Job’s friends.

READINGS—Old Testament: Job 20:20-29

Psalm 73 (*Christian Worship* page 94)

Epistle: Acts 3:1-10 *or*
Philippians 3:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 6:19-24

HYMNS—CW: 290, 284, 401; LAPPY: 22, 154, 264

20:20 Vision: The Vision of God’s Tests

TEXT—Exodus 20:20

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

This installment follows Job, who was tested by God. This passage comes after the giving of the Ten Commandments and the people were terrified by the thundering from the mountain, where God met with Moses. It also follows the long bondage in Egypt endured by God’s people, Israel.

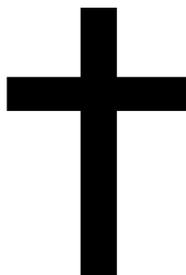
READINGS—Old Testament: Exodus 20:18-21

Psalm 27 (*Christian Worship* page 75)

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:15-22

Gospel: John 18:28-40

HYMNS—CW: 304, 307, 462, 477; LAPPY: 320, 324, 114



20:20 Vision: The Vision of Resurrection

TEXT—John 20:20

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

In this installment Jesus appears to his disciples the evening of his resurrection. They think he is an apparition—until he shows them the flesh and blood truth of his resurrection with the wounds in his hands and side.

READINGS—Old Testament: Job 19:25-27

Psalm 116 (*Christian Worship* page 107)

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *or*
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: John 20:19-23

HYMNS—CW: 151, 141, 152, 169, 550, 551; LAPPY: 11, 164, 297

Praise Today is an independent publication serving pastors and worship leaders of confessional Lutheranism. It is published monthly and relies heavily on the submissions of subscribers to share their ideas of worship framed in the historical orders of service with application to the needs of Christians today.

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Back issues are available by writing to the editor at the address above.

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20:20 Vision: The Vision of God's Truth

TEXT—Acts 20:20

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.”

The final installement looks at Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian Christians. As with any faithful servant, Paul reminds them that he shared what would be helpful to them—the gospel of Jesus Christ which makes us wise unto salvation.

READINGS—Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:11-20 or
Joshua 24:14-18

Psalm 34 (*Christian Worship* page 80)

Epistle: Acts 20:17-24

Gospel: John 21:15-19 *or*
John 17:6-19 *or*
Luke 9:1-6

HYMNS—CW: 203, 542, 610, 561; LAPPY: 87, 282, 202

Other 20:20 Vision Verses

Leviticus 20:20

Numbers 20:20

Deuteronomy 20:20

Judges 20:20

1 Samuel 20:20

2 Samuel 20:20

1 Kings 20:20

2 Kings 20:20

Matthew 20:20

Luke 20:20



Who Do You Say I Am? Vital Faith Questions for the New Millenium

by Rev. James Sonnemann, WELS, Salem, Milwaukee, WI (Eastside)

This Lenten meditation series for Wednesday evenings was developed by Rev. Sonnemann. The basic order of worship is printed first; the propers for each Wednesday, as well as the pastor participating in the rotation, follows. All hymns are from Let All The People Praise You (LAPPY).

Hymn

Invocation

P— In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C— Amen (sing)

Invitation

P— Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Confession of Sins

Congregation sings Psalm 32, *Christian Worship* page 78.

Absolution

Pastor sings hymn (CW) #372, verse 1.

The Lessons

SCRIPTURE LESSON—See propers

PASSION HISTORY—*Installments of composite reading.*

Hymn

The Sermon

CONFESSION OF FAITH—Congregation sings hymn (CW) #376, verses 1, 3, 5, 6.

OFFERING—

PRAYERS—

LORD’S PRAYER—*Can use LAPPY #234.*

HOLY COMMUNION—Ash Wednesday only.

Blessing

P—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C—Amen (sing)

HYMN—*See propers*

Propers for “Who Do You Say I Am?”

** – denotes communion hymns.*

Lent 1

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 161, 74, 262*, 183*, 175

Lessons

LESSON—Isaiah 52:13-15

In his suffering Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins.

PASSION HISTORY—Part One: Jesus’ readiness to suffer and die.

SERMON—John 13:12

Do You Understand What I Have Done For You?

(Rev. James Sonnemann, Salem)

Lent 2

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 296, 42, 220

Lessons

LESSON—Proverbs 24:30-34

As laziness in life leads to economic ruin, so also spiritual laggards face eternal destruction. How could the disciples sleep, when the cosmic battle for their souls raged around them?

PASSION HISTORY—Part Two: Jesus’ agony of soul in Gethsemane.

SERMON—Mark 14:37

Could You Not Keep Watch For One Hour?

(Prof. Forrest Bivens, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)



Lent 3

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 218, 16, 203

Lessons

LESSON—Psalm 41

The scriptures foretold the betrayal of Jesus. But God sustained him and gave success to his mission to save us.

PASSION HISTORY—Part Three: Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

SERMON—Luke 22:48

Are You Betraying the Son of Man With A Kiss?

(Rev. Keith Tullberg, Siloah)

Lent 4

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 300, 320, 226

Lessons

LESSON—Isaiah 42:1-7

God anoints his Servant, Jesus Christ, to free his people from slavery to Satan.

PASSION HISTORY—Part Four (A): Jesus before Pilate.

SERMON—Mark 14:11

Are You the Christ, The Son of the Blessed One?

(Rev. Ray Kimbrough, St. Philip)

Lent 5

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 18, 332, 286

Lessons

LESSON—Psalm 51

For truth Judas substituted hypocrisy and Pilate, relativism. God seeks inward truth—acknowledgment of our sin and of Jesus as Savior.

PASSION HISTORY—Part Four (B): Jesus before Pilate.

SERMON—John 18:38

What is Truth?

(Rev. Duane Erstad, Jerusalem)

Lent 6

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 168, 108, 250

Lessons

LESSON—Psalm 22

The injustice of man inflicted upon the Messiah is the justice of God by which he is punished for our sin and we are saved.

PASSION HISTORY—Part Five: Jesus condemned to death.

SERMON—Luke 23:22

Why? What Crime Has He Committed?

(Rev. David Moore, Zebaath)

The Perfect Sacrifice: Once For All

by Rev. James Sonnemann, WELS, Salem, Milwaukee, WI (Eastside)

Rev. Sonnemann developed this series for the Sundays in Lent. The order of service used was the Bugenhagen order found in the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, published by WELS sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). It was modified for use at Salem. Contact Bethany Seminary or the ELS in Mankato, Minnesota, if you wish to use this beautiful service in your church.

All hymns from Christian Worship (CW); * denotes Communion hymns.

First Sunday in Lent

- We Are More Than Conquerors!

HYMNS—(CW) 98 (1-4), 496, 114*, 123*, 373

PSALM—6 (CW page 66)

“The LORD has heard my cry for mercy.”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Genesis 22:1-18

Abraham trusted God for the impossible and shared in the victory of Christ, foreshadowed in the ram, whose life was given for Isaac's.

EPISTLE—Romans 8:31-39

Jesus' perfect sacrifice guarantees that nothing “in all creation” will be able to separate us from the love of God “that is ours in Jesus.”

GOSPEL—Mark 1:12-15

As Jesus banishes Satan in the Temptation, we preview the victory of his perfect sacrifice.

SERMON—Romans 8:31-39

More Than Conquerors. Crucified.

Second Sunday in Lent

- Remember!

HYMNS—(CW) 127, 465, 128

PSALM—73 (CW page 94)

“God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Genesis 28:10-17

Messiah's origins in God's chosen people are called to remembrance in the promise to Jacob: “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.”

EPISTLE—Romans 5:1-11

Paul reminds us that Jesus' sacrifice has reconciled us to God and is his call to discipleship.

GOSPEL—Mark 8:31-38

Jesus reminds his disciples that he must be sacrificed at the hands of his enemies, and that the disciples should follow him even to the point of death.

SERMON—Mark 8:31-38

Remember Your Priorities.

Third Sunday in Lent

- The Wisdom of God

HYMNS–(CW) 106, 118, 339*, 113*, 345

PSALM–19 (CW page 70)

“The Law of the LORD is perfect, giving joy to the heart.”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–Exodus 20:1-21

God set apart his holy people and protected them by his law. The fear of God, Moses said, would keep them from sinning.

EPISTLE–1 Corinthians 1:22-25

What seems foolish to man in God’s word and plan of salvation is nothing less than “The Wisdom of God.”

GOSPEL–John 2:13-22

Jesus, in his zeal for God’s house, purified the Temple. After he rose, they believed the Scriptures, which spoke of him.

SERMON–1 Corinthians 1:22-25

We Preach Christ Crucified.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- The Gift of God

HYMNS–(CW) 108, 365, 379

PSALM–38 (CW page 81)

“Come quickly to help me, O LORD, my Savior.”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–Numbers 21:4-9

Despite their rebellion, God graciously provided for the sparing of his people’s lives.

EPISTLE–Ephesians 2:4-10

We are saved, not by our own efforts, but by God’s grace through faith. We are saved to serve God with good works.

GOSPEL–John 3:14-21

We are saved by God’s unconditional love for us, which moved him to sacrifice his Son for us.

SERMON–Ephesians 2:4-10

We Are God’s Workmanship.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- I Will Remember Their Sins No More

HYMNS–(CW) 397, 372, 105*, 121*, 111

PSALM–143 (CW page 118)

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–Jeremiah 31:31-34

God pledges to establish a new covenant with his people, a covenant of mercy and forgiveness.

EPISTLE–Hebrews 5:7-9

By his perfect sacrifice, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for us, the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL–John 12:20-33

“I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” By his sacrifice would Jesus remove our sin forever.

SERMON–Hebrews 5:7-9

Designated by God to be High Priest.

Palm Sunday

- At The Name of Jesus Every Knee Should Bow

HYMNS–(CW) 130, 134, 131

PSALM–24 (CW page 73)

“Who is this king of glory?”

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–Zechariah 9:9-10

Jesus’ humble entry into Jerusalem is in sharp contrast with his majesty as God.

EPISTLE–Philippians 2:5-11

The true God, Jesus Christ, humbled himself to become the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He was raised to resume his exalted place in the heavens.

GOSPEL–Mark 11:1-11

Upon his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was greeted as the Son of David, the fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

SERMON–Mark 11:1-11

The Kingdom of Our Father David!

My God, How Endless is Thy Love

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

This song, penned by Isaac Watts ("Joy to the World") is short on theology, but makes a fine closing hymn. The meter is Long Meter (LM). The following Christian Worship (CW) tunes, also penned by Watts, are Long Meter and would fit these verses: 84 (Truro), 125 (Hamburg), 286 (Old Hundredth)

1. My God, how endless is Thy love!
Thy gifts are every evening new,
And morning mercies from above
Gently distill like early dew.
2. Thou spread'st the curtains of the night,
Great guardian of my sleeping hours;
Thy sov'reign word restores the light,
And quickens all my drowsy powers.
3. I yield my powers to Thy command,
To Thee I consecrate my days;
Perpetual blessings from Thine hand
Demand perpetual songs of praise.



Someone Special: Teachers Verses

by Jaroslav J. Vajda

In the new WELS songbook, Let All the People Praise You (LAPPY), is a Christmas song celebrating how special God is—and finishing with how we are special to God, since he was born of flesh and died for us.

Missing from the song are three very special verses penned by Vajda. These verses celebrate those special people who teach us God's truths—past, present, and future. One could easily exchange the word "teacher" with "pastor," "organist," or "elder" to honor those people whom God has given us to teach us the Gospel message.

These verses would be great sung just before installing Sunday school or Christian Day School teachers.

NOTE: *When using these verses with the hymn in LAPPY, use this credit: "Text copyright (c) 1978, 1986, Jaroslav J. Vajda. Used by permission."*

When using these verses without the hymn in LAPPY, use this credit: "Text copyright (c) 1986, Jaroslav J. Vajda. Used by permission."

• **TEACHERS PAST—**

1. Someone special, teachers past,
Teaching truths that last and last,
Planting seeds they prayed would grow,
Yet not reaping what they sowed,
Someone special they must be,
For those seeds bore fruit in me.

• **TEACHERS PRESENT—**

2. Someone special, teachers now,
Teaching God's own "why" and "how,"
Pointing to the Word who came,
Everlastingly the same,
Someone special they must be,
In whom creed and life agree.

• **TEACHERS FUTURE—**

3. Someone special still to come,
Marching to a distant drum,
Children now, some day mature,
What they teach will long endure,
Someone special they will be,
Everyone a fruitful tree.



The Pastoral Search Committee Report

Unknown

In our search for a suitable pastor, the following scratch sheet was developed for your perusal. Of the candidates investigated by the committee, only one was found to have the necessary qualities. The list contains the names of the candidates and comments on each, should you be interested in investigating them further for future pastoral placements.

NOAH—He has 120 years of preaching experience, but no converts.

MOSES—He stutters; and his former congregation says he loses his temper over trivial things.

ABRAHAM—He took off to Egypt during hard times. We heard that he got into trouble with the authorities and then tried to lie his way out.

DAVID—He is an unacceptable moral character. He might have been considered for minister of music had he not 'fallen.'

SOLOMON—He has a reputation for wisdom but fails to practice what he preaches.

ELIJAH—He proved to be inconsistent, and is known to fold under pressure.

HOSEA—His family life is in a shambles. Divorced, and remarried to a prostitute.

JEREMIAH—He is too emotional, alarmist; some say a real 'pain in the neck.'

AMOS—Comes from a farming background. Better off picking figs.

JOHN—He says he is a Baptist but lacks tact and dresses like a hippie. Would not feel comfortable at a church potluck supper.

PETER—Has a bad temper, and was heard to have even denied Christ publicly.

PAUL—We found him to lack tact. He is too harsh, his appearance is contemptible, and he preaches far too long.

TIMOTHY—He has potential, but is much too young for the position.

JESUS—He tends to offend church members with his preaching, especially Bible scholars. He is also too controversial. He even offended the search committee with his pointed questions.

JUDAS—He seemed to be very practical, co-operative, good with money, cares for the poor, and dresses well. We all agreed that he is just the man we are looking for to fill the vacancy as our Senior Pastor.

Thank you for all you have done in assisting us with our pastoral search.

Pastoral Search Committee chairman