

Praise Today

Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service

Volume 6, Number 2		February 2000	
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Christ Displays His Glory in the Lives of His People

Rev. James Sonnemann, Salem, Eastside, WELS, Milwaukee, WI

Rev. Sonnemann tied the Christian life to the work of God and how Christ displays his glory in us, sinful human beings. Each Sunday's theme follows the Bible readings for that Sunday. In many cases, guest preachers shared the message of God with the members of Salem. The Bible studies for each Sunday reflected the theme as well (see Peer Teacher, Winter 2000). Rev. Sonnemann also created an order of service which allowed for participation at the end of the service by members of Salem, as you can see in the weekly propers.

The order of service used each week is presented first, then the weekly propers.

For hymn reference, CW = Christian Worship; LAPPY = Let All the People Praise You; published by Northwestern Publishing House.

HYMN—*See propers*

GREETING—

INVOCATION—

CONFESSION OF SINS—Congregation sings hymn (CW) #304, verses 1, 5.

ABSOLUTION—Pastor sings hymn (CW) #304, verses 6, 7.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—

The Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—*See propers*

EPISTLE—*See propers*

GOSPEL—*See propers*

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE—

THE PSALM—*See propers*

The Sermon

CONFESSION OF FAITH—Congregation sings hymn (CW) #86, verses 1, 2, 4.

OFFERING—

PRAYERS—

LORD'S PRAYER—*Can use LAPPY #234.*

HYMN—*See propers*

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—*See propers*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(On Sundays when the congregation normally celebrates this sacrament.)

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE COMMUNICANTS—

CONSECRATION—

DISTRIBUTION—*(A hymn is sung during distribution)*

THANKSGIVING PRAYER—

THE BLESSING—*Pastors sing, using LAPPY #28.*

HYMN—*See propers*

Probers for “Christ Displays His Glory in the Lives of His People”

* – denotes communion hymns.

Epiphany 1: Baptism Sunday

HYMNS–(LAPPY) 316, 254, 24*, 26*, 300

PSALM–(CW) Psalm 2, page 65

Lessons

HISTORICAL–Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by the Star to the Savior in Bethlehem.

EPISTLE–Acts 16:25-34

The power of the Holy Spirit working through God’s word and promise is demonstrated in the conversion and baptism of the jailer at Philippi.

GOSPEL–Mark 4:1-11

At his baptism Jesus is revealed as God, submits to God’s will as our substitute, and becomes the bearer of our sin.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY–What is the continuing effect of Baptism in our lives?

HOLY COMMUNION–

Epiphany 2: Discipleship Sunday

HYMNS–(LAPPY) 166, 141, 168

PSALM–(CW) Psalm 67, page 91

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–1 Samuel 3:1-10

Young Samuel is called by God to serve as judge over Israel.

EPISTLE–1 Corinthians 6:12-20

As members of the body of Christ, his disciples, we live the new life in the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL–John 1:35-51

Jesus calls his first disciples. Thus begins their training for ministry and the founding of the Christian Church.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY–What opportunities for training as Jesus’ disciples are available to us? A look at the various Bible studies and support groups at Salem.

Epiphany 3: Mission Sunday

HYMNS–(CW) 577, 81, 570

PSALM–(CW) Psalm 62, page 88

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT–Jonah 3:1-10

The Gospel brought the Ninevites to faith, despite Jonah’s reluctance as a missionary.

EPISTLE–1 Corinthians 7:29-31

St. Paul addresses the urgency of gearing up our lives for mission work.

GOSPEL–Mark 1:14-20

Whatever our vocations, our true work is to be “fishers of men.”

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY–A conversation with a missionary. Rev. Plath answered questions from the congregation about his mission work in Hong Kong and how the church continues under Chinese control.

GUEST PREACHER–Roger Plath, former missionary in Hong Kong.

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.

Comments and submissions may be sent to:

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

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Epiphany 4: Evangelism Sunday

HYMNS—(CW) 84, 556, 90*, 86*, 562

PSALM—(CW) Psalm 1, page 64

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Deuteronomy 18:14-22

The message of evangelism is not our own, but God's. He safeguards the integrity of that message.

EPISTLE—1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Words are not the only witness to faith. St. Paul urges us to practice a "lifestyle" evangelism—to demonstrate our faith in our lives.

GOSPEL—Mark 1:21-28

The message Jesus proclaims and would have us proclaim is that, in Jesus, we are freed from Satan's destructive power.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—An interview with an evangelist. Rev. Sonnemann interviews Senior Vicar Chris Doerr about his experiences in evangelizing.

GUEST PREACHER—Professor Daniel Leyrer, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

HOLY COMMUNION—



Epiphany 5: Life Sunday

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 302, 286, 264

PSALM—(CW) Psalm 103, page 105

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Job 7:1-18

Job's complaint questions the value of a life full of trouble, grief, and pain. But his question in verse 18 implies God's high regard for human life at every stage and in every condition.

EPISTLE—1 Corinthians 9:16-23

St. Paul asserts the value of our lives as opportunities for service to God and to other precious souls won by Jesus for salvation.

GOSPEL—Mark 1:29-39

Jesus demonstrated his high regard for human life in his healing miracles and in his care for souls.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—A recognition of Salem's Lutherans for Life volunteers; information on volunteer opportunities.

GUEST PREACHER—Professor James Westendorf, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



Epiphany 6: Recruitment Sunday

HYMNS—(CW) 76, 532, 339*, 353

PSALM—(CW) Psalm 32, page 78

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—2 Kings 5:1-14

A young captive Jewess is proof that, when one spreads the Gospel to another, the potential results are beyond imagination.

EPISTLE—1 Corinthians 9:24-27

St. Paul maintains his focus on full-time ministry by thorough training—bending body and will to his task.

GOSPEL—Mark 1:40-45

A man whose life had been changed by Jesus could not keep silent. He became an effective messenger for Jesus.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—Recognition of Salem's members trained in Synodical schools; recruiting full-time workers.

GUEST PREACHER—Doctor John Lawrenz, Chairman for Worker Training in the WELS.

HOLY COMMUNION—Epiphany 7: Stewardship Sunday

HYMNS—(CW) 92, 478, 486

PSALM—(CW) Psalm 130, page 114

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Isaiah 43:18-25

God calls upon his people to serve him with their hearts and their offerings.

EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Trusting God's promises, we dare to seize the ministry opportunities and challenges God has set before us. He provides the resources and the results.

GOSPEL—Mark 2:1-12

As did Jesus, we find people in need all around us. Each need provides an opportunity to reach a soul with the Gospel.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—Thanksgiving for Salem's volunteers; volunteer opportunities in Salem's ministries; presentation of the 2000 budget.

Epiphany 8: Marriage Sunday

HYMNS—(LAPPY) 214, 29, 312*, 282*, 262

PSALM—(CW) Psalms 133-134, page 115

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—Hosea 2:14-20

With unconditional love and forgiveness, God "woos" wayward Israel and pledges his love as husband to her.

EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Whether married or single, we are spiritual letters by which Jesus presents himself to the world.

GOSPEL—Mark 2:18-22

The joy of married life portrays the blessing of our relationship with Jesus.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—We give thanks for faithfulness in marriage, for purity in single life, and for the blessings of family.

GUEST PREACHER—Rev. Phil Merten, Chaplain for Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries (WLIM).

HOLY COMMUNION—

Epiphany 9: Transfiguration Sunday A Sunday of Thanksgiving

HYMNS—(CW) 79, 95, 369

PSALM—(CW) Psalm 148, page 121

Lessons

OLD TESTAMENT—2 Kings 2:1-12

God receives his faithful prophet Elijah into his glory.

EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 3:7-4:2

The Law was given to Moses from the glory of God. The glory of the new covenant of grace in Jesus Christ by far outshines the glory of the old.

GOSPEL—Mark 9:2-13

Jesus provides for his disciples a vision of his divine glory. Seared into their minds, the vision will carry them through the dreadful days of his passion to the glory of his resurrection.

PRESENTATION ON THE THEME FOR THE DAY—Rededication of Salem's updated donor memorial board.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Original by Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885; adapted by Richard Futrell

Original

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem,
In Thy birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding-guest,
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest.
3. Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.
4. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now
And be pure as pure art Thou
That we like to Thee may be
At Thy great Epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Adaptation

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to You we raise,
God revealed by guiding star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem,
In Your birth at Bethlehem.
"You are Christ," by us confessed—
Word in flesh made manifest.
2. God revealed at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
Cana's holy wedding guest
Keeping to the last the best,
God revealed in works divine,
Changing water into wine.
"You are Christ," by us confessed—
God on earth made manifest.
3. God revealed in valiant fight,
Binding Satan's evil might;
Sins forgiven, sickness healed,
Life restored, and God revealed:
Blazing forth in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill.
"You are Christ," by us confessed—
God for us made manifest.
4. Grant us grace to see You, Lord,
Present in Your holy Word;
With Your grace our lives endow,
Grace to sanctify us now.
Then, transformed, Your glory see
At Your great Epiphany
When You are by all confessed—
God for all made manifest.



Midi Organ

Pastor Steve Blumer, WELS, Orlando, Florida

Rev. Steve Blumer shared these insights on the use of MIDI files in place of the organ. This is especially helpful where there is no organist who can play for the service or a congregation does not have the means to purchase an organ. This can also be used for home meetings or Bible studies where hymn singing is desired. Thanks to Rev. Blumer for his insights!

Our congregation, and many of the newer exploratories in the South Atlantic district and the AZ-CA district use a keyboard, brand name **Alesis, model QS7 or QS8**. This keyboard not only can play your standard midi files off the computer, but with a program like Cakewalk (the one I use, there are others) you can take any midi file, modify it to whatever sounds (called patches, these would be the stops on a pipe organ) you desire and load the whole thing onto a flash card so you can play any hymn or song directly from the keyboard with the touch of a number, rather than having to lug your computer with it.

It so happens besides the standard general midi sounds, which sound rather flat, and have no variety for organ, the Alesis has 5 banks of other sounds to which you can switch any midi file, (with the help of a program like *Cakewalk*). Besides that, Alesis also has two "flash cards" that you can plug in which have excellent church and pipe organ sounds. One is called Sanctuary, which has samples of actual pipe organs from churches, as well as individual pipe "stops" that you can put together for your own full organ sound. The other card is called "orchestra" and also has extra organ sounds besides what you'd expect. All told, we can have the entire orchestra play a hymn, or program a pipe organ with more possible sounds than most real pipe organs. the

samples of pipe organ stops are so real that you get the "chiff" from the positiv and principale stops, and much more. All told, you can't beat it, for a price of around \$1,500. for the complete setup. Of course, you do need a computer and program, and a decent sound system to plug the thing into. But I would highly recommend it for any congregation that doesn't have a very good organ, or a very good (or no) organist.

If you'd like more info, email me directly!

In His service,

Pastor Steve Blumer

Orlando FL

P.S. Thanks to the work of many, and one of our laymen on the SA mission board, we have access to the entire *Christian Worship (CW)* on midi file, as well as the entire *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)*. For copyright reasons, *HYMNSOFT* from NPH (Northwestern Publishing House) is purposely not written on a standard midi file, so it is impossible to modify it, or transfer it from your PC to something like the Alesis flashcard. So it is basically useless for our keyboard's abilities.

Bread Social

By Bryant and Joy Davidson

At our church our social committee leaders suggested that those with bread-making machines bring them to the church after vespers. All the machines were loaded, and even a few hand made batches were placed in the ovens. While the bread was processing and baking, we played table games and visited. When the bread was finished (we did sample a little ourselves), we wrapped and delivered it with little notes of encouragement to shut-ins, missing members, and other friends of the church. It was a great "dual purpose" social, and we thought other churches might find it food for thought.

- By Bryant and Joy Davidson



Possible Lenten Theme?

by Kurt Granzow, WELS

I wanted to pass on a new slogan that some might want to use for Lent.

I was in the local Christian bookstore and saw a bumper sticker with a picture of a nail in a hand (presumably Jesus'). Below were the words: *Body piercing saved my life*.

Hmmmm, stick that together with a verse about Jesus being pierced for our transgressions and you have a Lent theme!!! At least it will get some attention!

Just a thought (good, or bad...you can decide)



Graphic by Gerald Rexin, WELS, Bay City, MI

Best Bible Translation

Unknown



There were four clergymen who were discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible.

One liked the *King James Version* because of its simple, beautiful English.

Another liked the *American Revised Version* best because it is more literal and came nearer to the original Hebrew and Greek.

Still another liked *Moffat's* translation because of its up-to-date vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent. when asked to express his opinion, he replied, "I like my mother's translation best."

The other three expressed surprise. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible.

But he assured them, "She translated it into life, every day of her life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw."

Translate the grace of God in your life—forgive as you have been forgiven; give as you have been freely given; rebuke, instruct, and encourage one another. —Ed.

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Praise Today

As You Got Up This Morning

Unknown

Do we often think of God as we go through our daily lives—think of Him watching over us, wanting and aching to talk with us? Do we see God bring people in our paths whom He knows needs to hear the Gospel? Or maybe brings us trouble so that another—yes, even an unchurched member—has an opportunity to sorrow with us and thus begin to share the Gospel message.

The following piece can easily be taken in a legalistic way. Surely it can lay a guilt trip for our infrequent prayers. But let's look at it as a God busier than us, but not too busy to be with us; a God mightier than us, but not so mighty that He doesn't patiently wait as He patiently molds our lives; a God who never tires, yet can sympathize with our tiredness.

Finally, see our God as a loving Father eager to speak and interact with His children.

As you got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to Me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy trying to find the right outfit to put on and wear to work. I waited again.

When you ran around the house getting ready I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy.

At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip.

I watched as you went to work and I waited patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't.

That's okay.

There is still more time left, and I have hope that you will talk to me yet you went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done you turned on the TV, I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there and you spent a lot of time each day in front of it, not thinking about anything—just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal but again you didn't talk to me.

Bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Well you are getting up again and once again I will wait with nothing but love for you hoping that today you will give me some time.

Have a nice day!

Your friend, GOD :)