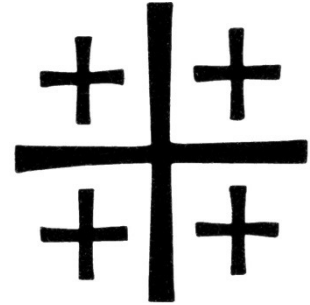


St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz
1st Sunday in Lent (series A.)
March 9, 2014
Psalm 130 ESV.



My Soul Waits for the Lord

A Song of Ascents.

130.1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! ³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

People of God –rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Mr. Witz and Mr. Espigares made an animated short movie called Mr. Hublot. Have you seen it? Mr. Hublot is just 11 minutes long – 11 minutes and 2 seconds to be precise. It’s about a little man named Mr. Hublot – a very short kind of mechanical man – kind of like a minion – he wears googles – little round goggles – and then on one side – there’s a kind of telescope – that he can whip over to see distances – and then whip back to the side when he wants. Mr. Hublot is kind of OCD. You know what that means – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. I have long been of the opinion that just about everybody is a little OCD in some areas. Most of the time it’s not hurtful or painful – so we just call it quirky. Mr. Hublot is OCD with the light switch. On, off – pause – on pause – then off, on, off, on, off, on, off, on! My Hublot is also a little OCD with the pictures on his wall – a lot of pictures on the wall and since he lives next to a sort of modern mass transit thing and a very busy street – his little apartment trembles – and so he straightens the pictures. Mr. Hublot is about a mechanical puppy – abandoned or lost – across the street – crying this pitiful little cry and what is Mr. Hublot going to do – especially when the puppy hides in a cardboard box to get out of the rain – and the garbage truck comes! Mr. Hublot won the Academy Award this year for Best Animated Short – and I wonder how many people paid any attention. When you stop and think about it – people spend a lifetime – making movies – or playing football or basketball or baseball – or inventing a new app for smart phones or anything else they can think of – trying to become rich and famous and well know. For what? For what?

Our Souls Wait For The LORD!

I. If He kept track of iniquities we are lost
II. II. We Respect Him Because He Forgives.

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on today is Psalm 130. Psalm 130 is one of seven penitential psalms – psalms of repentance. You know some of them. We sing them in Church. Psalm 51. **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.** Or there's Psalm 38 **"O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. All my longings lie open before you, O LORD; my sighing is not hidden from you. I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God. Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.** There is Psalm 22 – close your eyes and you can see Jesus on the cross. Psalm 22 **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me? I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me, they hurl insults, shaking their heads: "He trusts in the LORD let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him. My strength is dried up and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. A band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.** And Psalm 6 is in the hymnal. **O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my souls is in anguish. Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. I am worn out from groaning. My eyes grow weak with sorrow. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.**

Psalm 130 falls into 4 parts. The 1st part is a cry for mercy! **130.1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! 2 O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!** *Out of the depths* – the pits – down in the dumps! You know the feeling?! Dr. Brug in *The People's Bible* says, *"could be the depths of trouble and adversity, but since there is no other reference to sickness or persecution in the psalm, it seems best to regard the depths as the depths of sin. The psalmist realizes that his sin has separated him from God. His guilt has plunged him into sorrow and despair. He knows that self-help and positive thinking will not pull him out of the depths."* Sin – a bad attitude. The infant in the high chair being spoon fed – strained prunes and tapioca or liver paste – mixed with green peas – in a spoon covered with soft plastic – sees the spoon coming – grabs it with their pudgy fingers – squeezing the grey and green paste with their fingers – then rubs that same paste into their hair! Or you are quick and push the spoon into their mouth. Aha!-you think! Aha! – they think – it's in my mouth – but that in no way guarantees I am going to swallow it! And back out it comes – either with enough force to make it

spray in your face – or slowly but surely it dribbles down their chin – and short of the tray – it dribbles on their pants lap! Sin – a bad attitude – when a small child is told to do something like go to bed because it’s getting late and they stick out their chin and say, “Says who?” Sin that sneaks money from your mom’s purse or dad’s wallet – or sneaks beers from the refrigerator or money from work – or is unfaithful to a spouse – or lies to avoid accountability for a prior mistake. You stop and think. You have made a rift – a growing chasm – the Grand Canyon between you and your Heavenly Father – and it’s painful to think about – to the point you think: **130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! 2 O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. Iniquities! Another word for sin – iniquity stresses the aspect of a failure to measure up – to fall short! Imagine if Jesus kept track of all our sins – write them down with a gel-pen and a legal pad – every time we failed to measure up! God’s standards are exceedingly high. God is not just concerned about outward behavior. Jesus is concerned about our deepest thoughts and darkest attitudes. Jesus is concerned about what we do. He is also concerned about why we do what we do. Jesus is concerned about the sin of pride – *hubris* – the sinful pride that says I will do what I want – and not do what I don’t want to do. The sinful pride that puts selfish sinful self-indulgence ahead of the benefit of others. We fail to measure up – when we want our feet washed – instead of being the person to wash dirty feet!

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. It’s not easy to wait. If you have ever worked as security – keeping watch – standing guard – it’s hard to keep watch through the night. It has often been said, “It’s always darkest just before the dawn.” – according to Robert Fuller – an English Theologian. Scientifically speaking – apparently it’s the darkest at Midnight – darker and darker before and lighter and lighter – after midnight. The point is – sometimes our life seems pretty dark. And it’s hard to wait – hard to wait for the morning when the sun will shine again. It’s hard to wait. But the strength to wait comes from the LORD. He is the one who makes us strong enough. It has also been said more than once, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger!” This is true. Show me someone who has lived on *Easy Street* and I will show you someone who is very soft. Show me someone who has had a difficult life – and I will show you someone who is very strong. Take for example Corporal Carpenter. He was serving his country in Afghanistan. When the enemy threw a grenade near his friend – Corporal Carpenter threw himself on top of the grenade and suffered the full force in his own body. He suffered what are called “catastrophic injuries”. He lost his right eye. He spent two years in the hospital. He said when something like that grenade happen “*it puts everything in perspective.*” Perspective is important. So many things that take up so much of our time – our thoughts and our concern – don’t really matter! “Things and stuff” don’t matter. People matter – people that Jesus bought and paid for with his innocent blood. It is the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen that matters. Love Jesus and serve him. Put into practice the Gospel

of sins forgiven Monday morning at school or work – Friday night when you go out for fish – Saturday morning – when you have the day to do what you want to do. Night time – before you go to bed – read your Bible. Wednesdays come to Church for Lenten Vespers – and have supper with fellow believers. Talk about your concerns so that fellow believers can pray with you and pray for you! Watch for people that you don't know at church and introduce yourself – and get to know them. If you see a guest or visitor make them feel welcome. When you think about your family finances – think about what's really important – sharing God's Word with others and then spend your money remembering what is really important.

Paperman is animated. It's very short. Maybe you saw it – as a short little movie – just before you watched Wreck-it-Ralph! And so? Paperman is only 6 minutes and 33 second long. *There is no talking* – not a single word! There is piano music and cars screeching and trucks honking – and the sound of trains – little commuter mass transit trains – but no talking – not a single word! Paperman is about a very tall – very thin young man waiting for the train – when suddenly there is a very tall – very thin young lady also waiting for a train. The man loses one of his paper – it blows out of his hands – and into the face of the young lady – so that there is a lipstick kiss on his paper. And then she's gone! The young man goes to work – shuffling papers in a huge office – when he looks out the window and realizes – the young woman is in an office just across the street – the window open. All he needs to do is throw a paper airplane to her – she will see him and they can be together. All he needs to do is throw that paper airplane across the street! Do you know how difficult that can be? Paperman just 6.33 minutes long – the Oscar goes to Paperman. Again – it's about life – about frustration! Do you know about that – frustration? Lent is about all the frustration in life – all on account of sin – all on account of satan – all on account of my painful hurtful failures and mistakes. Jesus died and rose again to take away all my sins – so that we can live by him forever. If Jesus kept track of our sins we would be lost forever for sure. But all he knows is his forgiveness – his mercy and love by grace alone. Amen!

To God alone all glory!

Rev. Anthony E. Schultz