



All the Company of Heaven by Pastor Glenn Huebel

In the most ancient part of the liturgy, just before the consecration of the elements of the Lord's Supper, the congregation is called to recognize that our numbers are much larger than they appear by sight, for we join our humble voices with those of "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven" to laud and magnify the saving name of our God in the words of the song the angels taught us, "holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3). What is this famous unseen company with whom we worship each Sunday? It is the Church Triumphant, the company of those fellow believers in Christ who endured their pilgrimage through this vale of tears and have entered their eternal rest. John saw them in an inspired vision given to him as he approached the end of his own difficult life. The Holy Spirit inspired and commanded him to put the vision in words so that all the pilgrims who followed might be comforted with the glimpse of what is waiting for them at the finish line.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from

every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;

(Continued on page 2)



Hubert and Jan van Eyck. "Adoration of the Lamb," from the Ghent Altarpiece 1432.

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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

In the verse prior, this same company was identified as 144,000 chosen from the 12 tribes of Israel. Now they are identified as a multi-national multitude that cannot be numbered. This shows us clearly that numbers in the book of Revelation are usually figurative, and that the New Testament Church is often described in Old Testament terms, for it is the New Israel. We should not worry, as the Jehovah Witnesses do, that the glory of our inheritance in Christ is limited to 144,000 people. There is always room, and will always be room until the last hour (Matt 20:5-7) for those who repent and believe the Gospel.

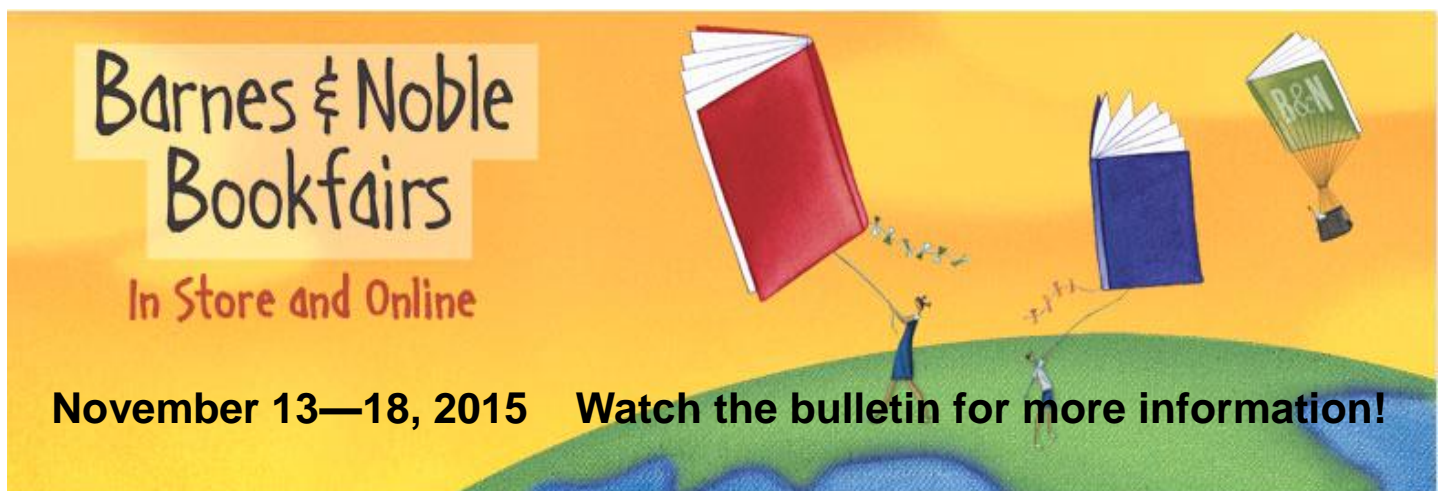
The company of heaven is multi-colored, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural. We cannot help but think about how the nations and languages originated at the tower of Babel. At that time the people were

united in rebellion against God and had to be dispersed. In this vision, the nations are once again united, not in rebellion, but in worship of the one true God who saved the world through the sending of His beloved Son to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The theme of their song is that great salvation: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" That is the theme of the worship of God in every generation. The greatest glory of God is His infinite grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. The Holy Christian Church is the center of great division in world history (Gen 11), but it is also the instrument of great reconciliation (Isaiah 2:2). This paradox will culminate in the division of God's final judgment which will also reveal the union of God's diverse people in the shelter of His glorious presence.

According to John's guide, those joyful people revealed in this vision endured the same sorrows and sufferings we are now facing in this hostile world. They endured tribulation, as every Christian must (Acts 14:22). But tribulation did not have the final word on their lives. As they humbled themselves under the mighty hand of God, they were exalted in due time. Their physical death was not the end, but the beginning of a new and glorious life, for they are now delivered from the

curse of sin, from hunger, thirst, persecution, and sorrow, just as Jesus promises to all who put their trust in Him, saying, "I am the resurrection and the Life. He that believes in Me, even if he dies, shall live forever" (John 11:25). That is why John calls the dead who die in the Lord (i.e., in faith) "blessed" (Rev 14:3)

None of this multitude is named or described beyond the cultural diversity and white robes, but God sees them in heaven as individuals, known and loved as a parent knows and loves each of his or her own children. We can, in our minds, identify some faces in this multitude, for most of us can remember friends and loved ones which whom we once worshipped and served here below and are now with Christ. St. Paul reminds us that, even though we may miss them terribly, we need not grieve as those who have no hope. Their tears have been wiped away and their labors have ended in glorious rest. Furthermore, they will be raised first at the coming of Christ, and together with us, will enter the new heavens and new earth wherein dwells righteousness. In the meantime, we joyfully sing with them as we receive the body and blood of Jesus as a reminder of the marriage feast that is coming. "Comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess 4:18).



A Brief Latin Glossary for the Lutheran Armchair Theologian

— by Pastor Tom Chryst

Lex semper accusat
Lex orandi, lex credendi
Simul justus et peccator

Ex nihilo

Sola scriptura
Sola gratia
Sola fide
Fides qua, fides quae
Ex opere operato
Quia and quatenus
Oratio, meditatio, tentatio
Soli deo gloria

“Ex nihilo”

Literally, “Out of Nothing”. This is a brief term to confess that when God the Father created the heavens and the earth, the universe and all that is in it – He did so without any pre-existing material. He created out of nothing. That is to say, He is the Creator. He didn't start with something and merely shape or fashion what was already there. He created the very substance which he then formed into Sun, Moon, stars, plants, animals and humans.



Ancient False Teachings

The Ancients – Greeks and other societies which embraced pagan ideas of our origins, often taught that the gods merely formed this world from whatever was before it. And so many had a difficult time accepting Christianity's teaching of a single God who created all things *out of nothing*.

Likewise, some were led astray from the early New Testament church in the first few centuries by the false teaching of Gnosticism. In this heretical sect, creation was envisioned as being accomplished by a “demiurge”, or go-between entity, an early creation of God but not God himself. And that demiurge was sometimes identified as Jesus Christ. You can see the many problems this view creates.

God Alone as Creator

In Genesis, we are told that God's early creation was “formless and void” until its Creator gave it both form and substance. Thus we see God's work of creating in an orderly way – forming light on day 1, then “filling in” with sun, moon and stars on day 4. He formed sky and sea on day 2, then filled it with birds and fish on day 5. And on day 3 forming dry land, then filling it with animals, and finally man.

Scripture teaches clearly, throughout, that God alone is the Creator. That he stretched out the heavens. That he laid the pillars of the Earth. And we know from the beginning of John's Gospel, that the Agent of creation, the Word, is the Living Word that became flesh, Jesus Christ. He made his dwelling (tabernacle) among us, and we have seen His glory. The Word who was with God, who was God already in the beginning. And by or through Him, all things were made. So God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, is also involved in this “ex nihilo” work of creation.

No to Evolution and Atheistic Origins

Now, you might take all this for granted, especially as a Bible-believing Christian. But we certainly know others who do not believe that, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”. That the universe has either always been, or that it came about on its own. That man is just one random stop along the endless, pointless evolutions of

stars and planets and living beings – with no purpose and no destiny. It can be quite entertaining, though, to hear mainstream scientists try to explain what came before the “Big Bang”. When pressed, they often come close to confessing something like a creator, or else squirm uncomfortably in an obstinate refusal to ever countenance such an idea.

No to Theistic Evolution

But Christians don't always swallow modern Evolutionary teaching whole hog. Sometimes people try to arrive at a middle-ground, a sort of Hegelian synthesis of Creation and Evolution. This will not do. The Lord didn't create man through an age-long process of death and mutation, through “survival of the fittest.” Instead he formed man personally out of the dust, and breathed his own Spirit into his nostrils. Likewise, he made the woman from the man's ribs – bone of his bone, flesh of Adam's flesh. And furthermore, no attempt to shoe-horn Creation into an Evolution framework can adequately account for sin and its wages of death. We must simply confess what Scripture does teach about our origins and leave it at that.

Faith, too, is “Ex Nihilo”

One final thought. “Ex Nihilo” is a handy reminder of God the Father's work of creation. But it's

also an accurate description of the Spirit's work in creating faith in our hearts. We bring nothing to the table when it comes to salvation. We are simply recipients of His divine love and mercy shown in Christ. When the Gospel creates faith in us, it is a New Creation! Just as much a miracle as the first appearance of light at his word. God speaks, and so it is. Creation of the world by His word of power. Creation of our faith by His word of Gospel. Both out of nothing, and both very good.



Sing a New Song . . . by Kantor Vicki Main

Our final Hymn of the Month for this church year will be LSB 509 – *Christ Is Surely Coming*. You will find it in the “End Times” section of our hymnal. **Christopher M. Idle** (born 1938) wrote the text and **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958) composed the melody many years prior.

We have already become acquainted with **Christopher M. Idle** last May when we sang *If Christ Had Not Been Raised From Death* – LSB 486 during the Easter season. And in Lent, we often sing *In Silent Pain The Eternal Son* – LSB 432 – also one of his texts. In addition, we have two more hymns that you may want to read that are his – LSB 529 and LSB 838. He was born in Bromley, Kent (UK) in 1938. In addition to writing over 200 hymn texts, he has contributed to some twenty other books including those on evangelism, inner-city church life, and prayer and poetry collections. He retired in 2003 and is currently an Assistant Minister at his former parish of Holy Trinity in Bromley, Kent.

Ralph Vaughan Williams was an English composer of symphonies, chamber music, opera, choral music, and film scores. He was born on October 12, 1872 in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire and died in London, England at the age of 86 in 1958. He was an arranger and harmonizer of over sixty hymn tunes. If you look on page 1006 in our hymnal, you will find a listing of twenty hymns where he was involved in the arranging and/or setting of the hymn.

509 Christ Is Surely Coming

- 1 Christ is surely coming
Bringing His reward,
Alpha and Omega,
First and Last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David,
Brilliant Morning Star;

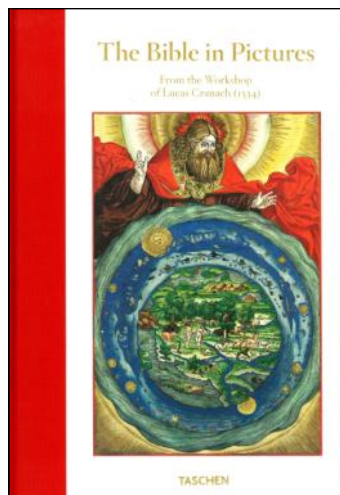
Meet your Judge and Savior,
Nations near and far!

- 2 See the holy city!
There they enter in,
All by Christ made holy,
Washed from ev'ry sin:
Thirsty ones, desiring
All He loves to give,
Come for living water,
Freely drink, and live!
- 3 Grace be with God's people!
Praise His holy name!
Father, Son and Spirit,
Evermore the same;
Hear the certain promise
From the_ eternal home:
“Surely I come quickly!
Come, Lord Jesus, come!”

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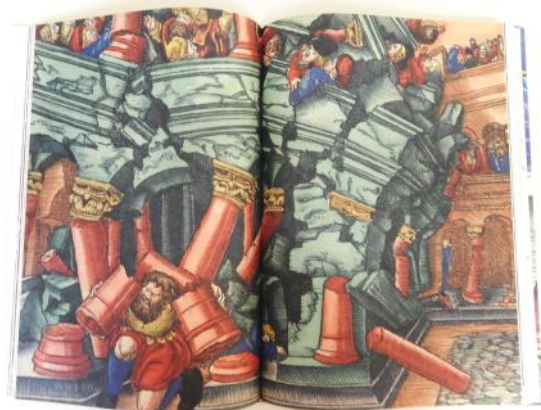
Although *Christ Is Surely Coming* has only been published in four hymnals, the tune itself, “King’s Weston,” is quite a familiar one and appears in over sixty different hymnals under various titles. Perhaps you will also recognize it to the tune for LSB 512 – *At the Name of Jesus*.

As we embark upon these last Sundays of the church year, you may find it especially helpful to read the texts associated with this hymn as well – Revelation 3:11; 22:7,12,20; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:25-27.



From YOUR Library

In March 2008, we cataloged our 5000th book, a facsimile copy of Luther's German Bible. (This beautiful two-volume set is located in our Reference section.) Taschen, the publishers of that Bible, collected all of the brilliantly colored woodcuts from the workshop of Lucas Cranach that illuminated Luther's Bible, and placed them in one volume: *The Bible in Pictures*. A little over seven years later, this book was recently cataloged as our **8000th book!** You are invited to come up anytime to see it. This, and many more books and movies are available to you to check out.



Angel Tree 2015

by Laralynn Conaway, Angel Tree Coordinator

Angel Tree Christmas season is here!

The Angel Tree program, a Prison Fellowship program, seeks to reconnect prisoners and their children to God and to each other through the delivery of Christmas gifts and the Gospel message. Messiah has partnered with the Angel Tree Christmas program to share the Good News for the past several years and its time to prepare for another year of this awesome ministry!

The kickoff of the Angel Tree program is set for Sunday, November 15. Will you help us show the love of Jesus Christ to the children of prisoners this Christmas? There are many ways to help!

- Call the families to verify gifts



and to coordinate deliveries

- Purchase gifts for the children
- Deliver gifts to the homes
- Give monetary donations to purchase bibles or books for each family
- Donate postage stamps to send Christmas cards to each prisoner
- Write Christmas cards to the prisoners
- Pray! Keep these children, the parents in prison and their families on your hearts and in your prayers

Thank you for your faithful and continued support of this important ministry. If you would like to volunteer your time or have any questions about other ways that you can help, please call me at 817-456-9464, or email me at LDNelson72@hotmail.com

Messiah Young Adults

In October, the Messiah Lutheran Young Adult Group continued a bible study into Exodus. On Monday nights in the Activity Center, Pastor Cholak explained the Christological parallels and God's promise to His people.

The Young Adult Group also bound several books of Ezekiel at the Messiah Braille Center.

Social events this month were at the Forth Worth Sundance Square and at a Southlake Trivia night.

- Join us in November on Monday nights at 7pm, down the hill in the Messiah Activity Center.
- Social events are planned for the first Sunday of each month;
- Volunteer events are planned for the third Sunday of each month.
- Find us on Facebook "Messiah Lutheran Young Adult Group" or contact:
Pastor Cholak revcholak@me.com
Daniel Sweet [817-454-7057](tel:817-454-7057)

A Service of Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m.

Let us enter His gates with thanksgiving!

Stone Soup and Trumpets and Petting Zoos...Oh My!

(The Great News about Preschool...Part 2) by Erika Mildred

Fall is in the air! MLCA's preschoolers have been enjoying many great experiences that come with the fall: cooler weather, pumpkin studies, making soup, Western Day, and more! Here are just some of the things (along with some adorable pictures) that our 2 – 5 year olds are learning.

We have had two “on-campus” field trips since school began. Members from the Keller Fire Department and EMT came for “Community Helpers” day. Preschoolers learned about safety and were able to have hands-on activities with the fire truck and the EMT vehicle. This past Wednesday, we brought a petting zoo, complete with pony rides to our campus! Children were able to pet a rabbit, a donkey, a cow, a pig, goats, and sheep. They also each got a turn riding on a pony! We wrapped up the morning by making a special Texas trail mix for snack.

As you have probably seen from our hallway decorations, we are emerged in a world of pumpkins, fall colors, leaves, trees, harvest time, and being thankful for all the gifts God showers upon our world and people. The entire preschool has been making tree and acorn handprints. The 2's class is counting its blessings and has displayed for what they are most thankful next to their classroom. 3's preschoolers have been busy counting and measuring with pumpkins and seeds. They also made a “God Made the World” keepsake book for their parents, which illustrated the 7 days of creation. PreK scholars have been active in classroom snack-making efforts. “J is for Jello” day was very popular with the children as they made Jello together and then enjoyed eating it at snack time. They also read the wonderful story “Stone Soup” and then each brought in ingredients to make their own stone soup for snack.

Music has been enjoyed by our preschoolers all year, but a recent unit on musical instruments has been particularly exciting, as our youngest MLCA lions were

able try their hand (and lips) at playing the trumpet! We have been truly making a joyful noise to the Lord in music!

As we approach Thanksgiving, we will continue to focus on the things for which we are thankful and that God is the great giver of all good things. Our preschoolers will also be getting excited and ready for a special Grandparents Day in their classes before Thanksgiving break. We are thankful, of course, for the church's support and for helping us to spread the word about our amazing preschool!



Preschool, cont.





Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Associate Pastor

Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

www.messiahkeller.org



Feed My Starving Children, by Pamela Buhler

A big thank you to all our volunteers who turned out at St Paul's Lutheran Church and donated their time on Saturday, October 17th to help pack food for Haiti. You all made a difference and had fun doing it! Go Team!



Little children,
let us love,
not in word or speech,
but in truth
and action.
1 John 3:18



www.fmsc.org

