



This is my chosen Son; listen to him.
Icon of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral Iconographer

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL *The Second Sunday of Lent*

February 17, 2008

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE LITURGY WE ARE ABOUT TO CELEBRATE,
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELLULAR PHONE.

INTROIT

Introit for Lent II *Tibi dixit*

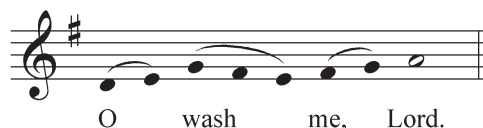
adapt. Stratman



SPRINKLING RITE

Psalm 51 *Asperges me*

chant



The season of Lent is a season of baptismal renewal. At the beginning of each Mass we are sprinkled with the holy water that recalls our baptism in Christ.

DISMISSAL TO THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (Noon)

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS No. 790

GRADUAL PSALM

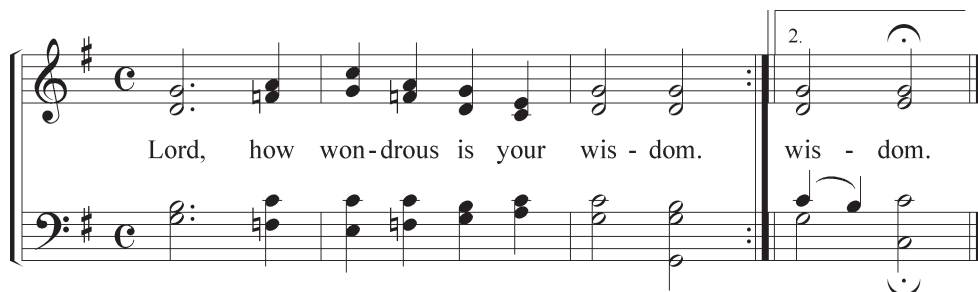
Psalm 27

Kreutz



GOSPEL TRACT

Stratman



HOMILY

Father Thomas Marti, MM

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT (10:00)

adapt. Stratman

Cantor: I give them life long and full;

ALL: And I show them my power to save, says the Lord.

CREED No. 238 *chanted on one tone*
(10:00 and Sunday Evening)

chant, *Jubilare Deo*

Presider Credo in unum Deum,

Schola Patrem omnipotentem factorem cæli et terræ,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.*

ALL

Et in u - num Do - mi - num Je - sum Chri - stum,

Fi - li - um De - i u - ni - ge - ni - tum.

*We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,*

Schola Et ex Patre natum ante omnia sæcula.

eternally begotten of the Father,

ALL

De - um de De - o, lu - men de lú - mi - ne,

De - um ve - rum de De - o ve - ro.

*God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,*

Schola Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri:
per quem omnia facta sunt.

*begotten, not made,
one in being with the Father:
through him all things were made.*

ALL

Qui pro-pter nos hó - mi - nes et prop-ter no-stram

sa - lú - tem de - scén - dit de cæ - lis.

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:*

ALL BOW AT THE WORDS OF INCARNATION, SUNG BY THE SCHOLA:

Schola Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine,
et homo factus est.

*by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*

ALL

Cru - ci - fí - xus é - ti - am pro no - bis

sub Pón - ti - o Pi - lá - to; pas - sus et se - púl - tus est.

*For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.*

Schola Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas.

*On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;*

ALL

Et a - scén - dit in cæ - lum,

se - det ad déx - te - ram Pa - tris.

*he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.*

Schola Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,
judicare vivos et mortuos,
cuius regni non erit finis.

*He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

ALL

Et in Spí - ri - tum San - ctum, Dó - mi - num et vi - vi - fi -

cán - tem: qui ex Pa - tre Fi - li - ó - que pro - cé - dit.

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

Schola Qui cum Patre et Filio simul
adoratur et conglorificatur:
qui locutus est per prophetas.

*With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.*

ALL

Et u - nam, san - ctam, ca - thó - li - cam

et a - pos - tó - li - cam Ec - clé - si - am.

*We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.*

Schola Confiteor unum Baptisma in remissionem peccatorum.

*We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.*

ALL

Et ex - spe - cto re - sur - re - cti - o - nem mor - tu - o - rum.

*We look for the resurrection
of the dead,*

Schola Et vitam venturi sæculi.

and the life of the world to come.

ALL

A - - - - - men.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Litany of Saints

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

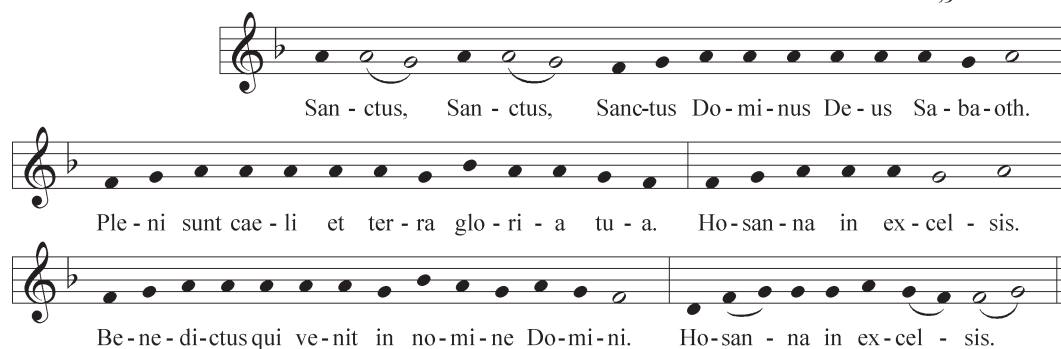
Offertory (10:00 ☞ Sunday Evening) *O nata lux de lumine*

Tallis

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.

SANCTUS

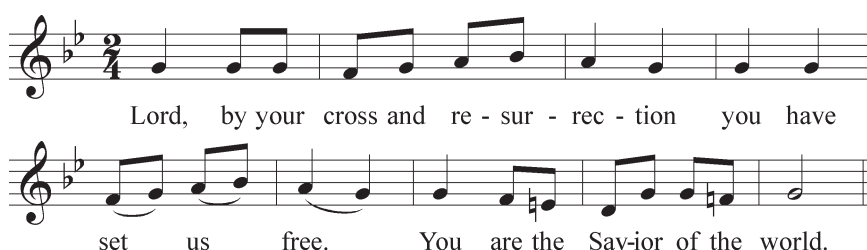
chant, *Jubilare Deo*



San - ctus, San - ctus, Sanc-tus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.
Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.
Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Proulx



Lord, by your cross and re-sur-rec-tion you have
set us free. You are the Sav-ior of the world.

AMEN No. 350

chant

AGNUS DEI

Vatican XVII



R. 1, 2 mi-se-re-re no-bis.
R. 3 do-na no-bis pa-cem.

COMMUNION

(10:00)

Tell no one about the vision you have seen
until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

Psalm 42: *Sicut cervus*

Palestrina

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, please **KNEEL OR BE SEATED**. This is the norm for large assemblies in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we thank you for following our practice.

HYMN OF PRAISE No. 700

'Tis good, Lord, to be here

SWABIA

PROCESSION

St. James Cathedral - Seattle

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle

PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant
The Reverend Thomas Marti, MM

PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

John Simpson (206-274-3173)

SOCIAL OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515)
Jennifer Ibach (206-654-4640)
Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Deacon Joseph Curtis (206-523-1050)

LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (206-622-3559)
Deacon David Olsen, Stephen Pace, Bryan Long, Brenda Bellamy, Sacristans

MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music
Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597)
Clint Kraus, Associate Organist; Director of Youth Music
Stacey Sunde, Music Assistant
Ian Newhall, Coordinator of Special Projects

FAITH FORMATION

Helen Oesterle, Director/RCIA (206-382-4514)
TerryAnn Bowen, "Welcome Back" & Confirmation (206-382-2018)
Marianne Coté, Youth & Family Ministry (206-382-4512)
Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (206-654-4658)
Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

MINISTRY TO IMMIGRANTS (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director
Glenda Caldwell, ESL Tutoring
Jim Hodges, Citizenship
Cecilia Erin Walsh, Refugee Project Coordinator
Lupita Gonzalez, Community Mentors
Mali Main, Development Assistant

STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

WEDDING COORDINATORS

Linda Carr, Bev Mauser (206-622-3559 ext. 3979)

PARISH OFFICE

Kay Kaiser, Executive Assistant (206-654-4650)
Marilyn Maddeford, Receptionist (206-622-3559)
Joan McDonnell, Marriage Tribunal Advocate (206-622-3559)
Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-622-3559 ext. 3974)

FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm
Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm
Saturdays 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00 pm.

BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

RECONCILIATION Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

MARRIAGE A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

ANointing of the SICK A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER with music from Taizé, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

TOURS OF THE CATHEDRAL Groups of 6 or more may arrange a tour by calling Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303
Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org
Emergency Number: 206-467-3049
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

WELCOME *If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese. Thanks, in part, to the generosity of visitors like you, we are able to celebrate the Church's liturgy in a fitting and beautiful way. We are also able to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the central district of our city.*

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED on Monday, February 18 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday. The cathedral will be open and the regular Mass schedule followed.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION for the poor in our neighborhood and downtown area, will be taken up by our ushers after all Masses this weekend.

LENT BIBLE STUDY—ONGOING STUDY OF THE LETTERS OF ST. PAUL We continue our two-year study of St. Paul's writings by focusing on his letters to the Thessalonians and Galatians. Join us on the Tuesdays of Lent from 1-3 pm or 7-9 pm in Cathedral Place, 2nd floor, as we complete our study and reflect on St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. **Homework:** Please read 1 Thessalonians. *No Bible experience necessary.* Information, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org

LENT ON THE WEBSITE Download a complete schedule of Lent events and offerings and stay abreast of the busy, grace-filled weeks ahead. You can also pray the Stations of the Cross online! www.stjames-cathedral.org.

YOUNG ADULTS INFORMAL "THIRD SUNDAY" gathering is this Sunday, February 17 immediately following 5:30 Mass. Young adults ages 21 to 35, single or married, gather for fun, refreshments, and fellowship in the Fireside Room of the Pastoral Outreach Center. This Sunday we will also talk about ideas and plans for coming events, so come share your thoughts. Newcomers and those not new to the parish are all welcome! Information youngadults@stjames-cathedral.org or TerryAnn Bowen, 206-382-2018.

SOLEMN STATIONS OF THE CROSS February 22, 8:00 pm. Our wonderful Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Soloists Ya-li Lee Cheng, soprano; Kathryn Weld, mezzo-soprano; Howard Fankhauser, tenor; Gregory Carroll, baritone; and Norman Smith, bass; with Cathedral Organist Joseph Adam, in Dvorak's monumental setting of the Lenten sequence Stabat Mater. Father Michael G. Ryan, presider. Free-will offering.

PARISH REMEMBRANCE *Throughout the year because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day.* This week we remember in prayer the parishes of St. Peter, Seattle; and St. Peter Mission, Deming, Suquamish and Tenino.

JOURNEY OF THE ELECT

Lent is a particularly special time for the Elect who have been journeying towards baptism, Eucharist and confirmation at the Easter Vigil. As part of their preparation, the Church celebrates anointing with the oil of the Catechumen, blessings and exorcisms. Beginning next Sunday, we will join in prayer for our Elect as they participate in the ancient ceremonies called the Scrutinies that symbolize the spiritual purification taking place in their lives as they prepare for baptism. Through these Scrutinies, blessings and anointings, the Elect are encouraged to reflect more deeply on their own spiritual challenges and weaknesses. At the same time, these rites offer powerful prayers of faith, hope and strength on their behalf, calling upon God's grace and mercy to penetrate their entire lives. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

LENTEN PRAYER PARTNERS FOR THE ELECT

It is not too late to "adopt" one of our Elect as they prepare to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. You are asked to pray everyday for him/her asking for God's blessings and guidance. Also, notes and cards will be collected during Holy Week to be given to the Elect before Easter. Prayer cards are available at the place of prayer located in the north aisle of the west nave of the Cathedral (where you can also learn more about each of them in our Book of the Elect), in the bookstore, and in Cathedral Hall during Sunday morning hospitality. You can also meet our Elect by going to our parish website: www.stjames-cathedral.org Your prayers make a difference!!!
Information Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

I AM IN YOUR MIDST AS ONE WHO SERVES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AIDS AND M.S. CARE TEAM Are you interested in joining the St. James CareTeam to provide companionship and assistance to persons living with M.S. or AIDS? On Saturday, March 1 Multifaith Works will be holding an informative and inspiring one-day CareTeam training from 8:45 am-4:45 pm at St. Mark's Cathedral (1245 10th Ave E., Seattle).
Information, Jennifer Ibach, 206-654-4640.

ESL TUTORS NEEDED Volunteer to help a refugee or immigrant achieve their personal, professional and educational goals by providing English language instruction. Volunteers attend a comprehensive tutor training before volunteering begins. Additional tutor support includes access to the ESL Resource Library and assistance with lesson plan development. We have tutoring opportunities on First Hill, north and south Seattle, Tukwila and Kent. *Information*, Mali Main mmain@stjames-cathedral.org or 206-382-4511.

THIRSTING FOR LIVING WATER: A LENTEN RETREAT FOR THOSE WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH THROUGH RCIA At your baptism or reception into the Church you were called to become part of this Catholic faith community. Now, it is months, years, perhaps decades later. What does being a baptized Catholic mean now? Join others on Saturday, February 23 from 9:30-12:30 pm at Cathedral Place, fourth floor for a special time of prayer, faith sharing, and fellowship with others. Rosanne Michaels will be our guest facilitator.
Information, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

CATHEDRAL BOOK GROUP On Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00 pm in the Mother Mary Rose Room, you're invited to gather for a discussion of Archbishop Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan's *Testimony of Hope*. As a prisoner in a communist concentration camp for 13 years, 9 of them in solitary confinement, Archbishop Nguyen van Thuan reveals the secret which allowed him to cling to hope in the midst of despair. *Information*, Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284.

WINTER SHELTER TOILETRIES DONATIONS

NEEDED As part of their overnight stay at our Winter Shelter for men, our guests are given toiletries that they can use to freshen up before they head out for the day (many head to work in the mornings). We are able to provide these toiletries thanks to the generous donations given by St. James parishioners. Please consider dropping off any of the following unused items in the bin at coffee hour: disposable razors, hotel sewing kits, cough drops, economy-sized bottles of Tums and Tylenol. *Information*, Jennifer Ibach 206-654-4640.

HELP US CELEBRATE WORLD CULTURES through recipes and support our mission to promote an inclusive society and advance justice for refugees and immigrants through education. Share your culture and tradition by adding your family recipe, and any story or customs related to the dish, to St. James ESL cookbook. 804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 (Accepting recipes through February).



As we celebrate the second Sunday of Lent, Operation Rice Bowl begins to focus on the West African country of Mali. One of the programs that Catholic Relief Services runs in Mali is a microfinance project that lends money to people who want to start or expand their own small business. These projects work with a group dynamic bringing people together to ensure accountability and help one to another.

St. Paul tells us to "bear your hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God." These groups working together in Mali are bearing hardship together. By praying and giving with Operation Rice Bowl, we too are helping to shoulder their burden and to express a profound message of solidarity.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR Floral offerings are a venerable custom in the Church, and a wonderful way to remember a deceased loved one, celebrate an anniversary, or give thanks for an answered prayer. *Information* Kay Kaiser, 206-654-4650, kkaiser@stjames-cathedral.org.

WELCOME, PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN We support all of our parishioners who are attending Mass with young children and we welcome those children into our midst. If you find that your child needs a quiet place away from the stimulation of the Mass, please feel free to step into the west vestibule or the cathedral chapel, where we have provided a sound system so that you can continue to participate in the Mass. We appreciate your effort to be with us and to include your child in our worship.

Please note that babysitting is available in the Mother Cabrini Room at the Pastoral Outreach Center during the 10:00 am and 12 Noon Masses.

PRAYER WITH MUSIC FROM TAIZE Each Friday at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral, all are invited to join in an ecumenical service of readings, silence, candlelight, and the music of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. This simple, reflective prayer is the perfect way to end a busy week.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER AT ST. JAMES? Many who attend St. James regularly and consider the Cathedral their parish have never officially registered. *We strongly encourage you to register.* Registered parishioners receive important mailings from the Cathedral (including offering envelopes!), are regular recipients of the Cathedral's highly acclaimed journal *In Your Midst*, are able to celebrate their wedding at the Cathedral, and their children may attend any of the five Catholic Rainbow Schools at parishioner rates (and become eligible for Cathedral scholarship money). In addition, if you are a registered parishioner and use envelopes, or are on the direct deposit program, we will mail you a quarterly report of your contributions to the parish. Registration cards can be found in the vestibule. Please drop the completed card in the collection basket or put it in the mail.

If you're not sure whether you're registered at St. James, call the parish office at 206-622-3559.

SICK OR HOMEBOUND? If you or someone you know is seriously ill, hospitalized or homebound, and would like to receive communion calls or are in need of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call John Simpson, 206-274-3173 or jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org.

A reminder about parking on Sundays for the Cathedral

We know that parking in this area is at a premium and we are doing our best to make it available to you. In consideration of our neighbors and to ease parking problems on Sundays, please note these important Do's and Don'ts.

You **MAY** park:

- In the unmarked spaces in the O'Dea High School lot. **THE NUMBERED SPACES AGAINST THE WALL ARE NEVER AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL PARKING, AS THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO SPECIFIC CATHEDRAL EMPLOYEES.**
- In the Cabrini Tower Garage on Marion Street across from O'Dea High School for the Saturday 5:30 pm Mass and all Sunday Masses. The Cathedral pays for parking during these times, and you are encouraged to take advantage of it. (How often are you offered free parking in Seattle?)
- In the parking lot at the corner of 9th Avenue and Columbia Street.
- In the P-1 parking lot under the Chancery building at 9th and Marion.

Please **DO NOT** park:

- In the lot adjacent to the Envoy Apartments on 9th Avenue, directly across from the Cathedral.
- In the Blood Bank parking lot at the corner of Terry and Columbia.
- In the Frye Museum parking lots on Terry Avenue.
- In the parking places at the Pastoral Outreach Center.
- In the spaces on Terry Avenue reserved for loading and unloading of the parish vans.

Putting God First

Week One: The Call

Scripture

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Matthew 17:1-9

from the Bishops' Pastoral

Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them and sends them out in his service. Being sent on a mission is a consequence of being a disciple. Whoever wants to follow Christ will have much work to do on his behalf—announcing the Good News and serving others as Jesus did.

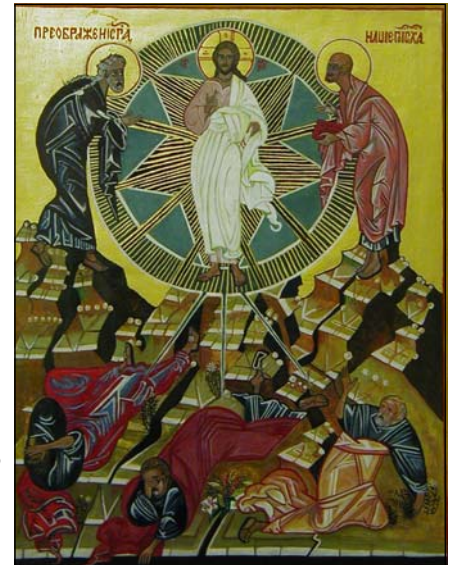
Jesus' call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now—at this moment, in these circumstances. There can be no delay. "Go and proclaim the kingdom of God... No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk 9:60, 62).

But a person can say no to Christ. Consider the wealthy and good young man who approaches Jesus asking how to lead an even better life. Sell your goods, Jesus tells him; give to the poor, and follow me...

Attachment to possessions is always more or less a problem, both for individuals and for the community of faith.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response
U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

"The Christian vocation is essentially a call to be a disciple of Jesus." The call of the first disciples is our call. Jesus does not call them "as a faceless crowd," but rather, as individuals. Each is approached in a unique way and summoned by name. None is summoned in isolation. It is the community, their fellow disciples, who help "mediate" Christ's call.



The Transfiguration of the Lord
Joan Brand-Landkamer

Questions for Reflection

1. Knowing what lies ahead, Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a glimpse of the glory that is to come. What are the "mountaintop moments" in your own life? When has the grace of these moments helped you through darker times?
2. Have you ever felt called by Christ to do something? To witness to something? What did it feel like? Did you answer the call? What did you have to give up or face to do it?
3. Pedro Arrupe said: "Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything." What are you 'in love' with?
4. If you were to interview those closest to you, what do you think they would say are your best qualities or gifts? What do they most appreciate about you?
5. Which "possessions" are you the most frightened of losing or having to give up?

This Lent, some 80 Cathedral parishioners are participating in Putting God First, a five-week course of study, prayer, and faith sharing based on the U. S. Catholic Bishops' now-classic 1992 Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response. For more information on Putting God First, contact Maria Laughlin, Director of Stewardship & Development, 206-382-4284 or e-mail mlaughter@stjames-cathedral.org

GATES OF HEAVEN

1 in a series of 3

February 17, 2008

This spring, the Seattle Art Museum is privileged to host a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit of three panels of Lorenzo Ghiberti's Renaissance masterpiece, the bronze doors of the baptistry of the Cathedral of Florence. A series of inserts in the bulletin will help us celebrate this event and learn more about "the Gates of Paradise" and our own magnificent bronze doors created by Ulrich Henn. On Monday, March 3, the Seattle Art Museum will host an interfaith panel on Ghiberti's doors. Details coming soon!

In April, 1424, Lorenzo Ghiberti oversaw the installation of his new doors for the baptistry of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. These doors, depicting twenty scenes from the New Testament, weighed thirty-four thousand pounds and cost twenty-two thousand florins. Ghiberti, now 44 years old, had labored at them for twenty years—his entire adult life.



Lorenzo Ghiberti tucked a self-portrait into his "Gates of Paradise"

The Merchants' Guild of Florence, who had commissioned the doors so many years before, were delighted with the results. No sooner had they seen the doors in place and heard the raves from every side, than they decided to commission another set of doors from Ghiberti. This time, they told him, he was to pull out all the stops. "He had permission to do anything he wished so that the doors would turn out even more elegant, rich, perfect, and beautiful than he could ever imagine. Nor should he worry about the time or the expenses, so that just as he had surpassed all other statuary up to that time, he could now outdo and surpass all of his own works" (Vasari).

Ghiberti threw himself into this new project with zeal. Finally he had a worthy rival to compete with: himself! For twenty-four years, he labored at this new set of doors, revolutionizing art as he went, making breakthroughs with each panel, in perspective, relief, and in the casting and finishing of bronze. The doors, which were finally installed on the east side of the baptistry in 1448, depicted stories from the Old Testament, from the creation of Adam and Eve to Solomon in his glory. Many years later, another Florentine artist, Michelangelo Buonarroti, was seen pausing to look at them. "When he was asked what he thought of them and whether they were beautiful, he replied: 'They are so beautiful that they would do nicely at the entrance to Paradise'" (Vasari).

At St. James, we know that the age of great church-doors is not in the past. In the early 1990s, Father Ryan—like the Merchants' Guild in Florence so long ago—was in search

of an artist who could create bronze doors for St. James Cathedral. While the Merchants' Guild had held a contest which drew artists from all over Tuscany, St. James Cathedral cast its net far wider. "After spending considerable time on research and study," Father Ryan has written, "we began an international search for an artist to handle the commission. Artists from across the country and around the world, including some fine ones right here in the Northwest, submitted proposals for consideration. In the end, the decision was made to award the commission to the internationally recognized German sculptor, Ulrich Henn." Well-known in his native Germany, Henn had completed only one commission in the United States—the magnificent gates of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. After receiving the commission, Henn visited Seattle, taking the measure not only of the building but of the community as he commenced work on this new project.



Ulrich Henn completed St. James Cathedral's bronze doors in 1999

Henn's bronze doors were the work not of days or months, but of years. Fifteen feet high, the great central doors were to depict the journey to the heavenly Jerusalem, beginning with Adam and Eve in the garden, through Noah and Moses, and the story of Christ's ministry from his Baptism in the Jordan to his lonely journey to Calvary. As in Ghiberti's day, sculpting the doors was only the beginning of a long, immensely complex process developed by the Romans before the Christian era—the lost wax process.

—M & C Laughlin

Next week: *The Bible in Bronze.*

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Doors have great symbolic significance in our culture. We speak of being "on the threshold" of something, of someone "opening doors" for us, of having the door "slammed in our face." In your life, when have doors opened for you? When have they closed?
- Jesus said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe" (John 10: 9). The doors of a church, not unlike the altar and the ambo, are a sign of Christ in the building. Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise" and our own doors created by Ulrich Henn are unlike ordinary doors in that they have no handles: they can only be opened from within. How did you first enter the Church? Who opened those doors for you?