On Guarding the Deposit

Guarding the deposit brings to mind armored cars, bank vaults, and uniformed guards carrying guns. This may seem like what is needed to protect something we are afraid of losing. And we have not been given a spirit of fear but of power and love and a sound mind. So why would we place under guarded lock and key something that God intends as a free gift for all people? It is actually impossible to guard faith in a bank-vault sense, because faith is not a thing we have; rather, it is a way by which we live. Instead of spending our energy trying to protect something, what if “guarding the deposit” means using our sound minds fearlessly to invest the gift of faith working through love into the lives of the people around us? Our duty is compassionate service to our fellow human beings. Mysteriously, faith is a deposit that grows the more we give it away.
GATHERING SONG

GOD OF WONDERS

Byrd—Hindalong

Lord of all creation, of water, earth and sky,
The heavens are Your tabernacle; Glory to the Lord on high.

CHORUS: God of Wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;
The universe declares Your majesty.
You are holy, holy; Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning I will celebrate the light.
When I stumble in the darkness, I will call Your name by night. CHORUS

* PREPARATION *

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG JESUS MESSIAH

Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross. Love so amazing, love so amazing.

CHORUS: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body, the bread; His blood, the wine; Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Love so amazing, love so amazing.

CHORUS

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world. CHORUS

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 62:1–2, 5, 7

Pastor: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
People: from Him comes my salvation.
Pastor: He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
People: I shall not be greatly shaken.
Pastor: On God rests my salvation and my glory;
People: my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
Pastor: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
People: for my hope is from Him.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Loving God,
People: We confess our sinfulness in lacking love. We have not loved one another as You have loved us. We need Your help to follow a new way. Give us faith to know we are surrounded by love beyond what we can imagine. Heal us with forgiveness for Jesus’ sake, and strengthen us to follow in the way He walked for us.
Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given the Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✡ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

◆ WORD ◆

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4
(“I will . . . look out to see what He will say to me.”)

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received.

How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Then the LORD replied:

"Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by his faith.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 1:1–14
(Remember your faith. Don’t be afraid or ashamed.)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of
life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 17:1–10
(Forgiveness, faith, and service)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves.

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."
"Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh.
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death.
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Townend—Getty

Pastor John Larson
LWML LADIES: In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

APOTHESES’ CREED  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor:  The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People:  And also with you.

OFFERING

IT IS WELL

Spafford-Dimarco Youth Band Only

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

2 Timothy 4:22  
[Colossians 3:1]  
[Psalm 136]
Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13 Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

WE BELIEVE The Newsboys

In this time of desperation—When all we know is doubt and fear
There is only one foundation—We believe we believe
In this broken generation—When all is dark You help us see
There is only one salvation—We believe we believe

CHORUS: We believe in God the Father—We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit—And He’s given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion—We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection—And He’s coming back again

So let our faith be more than anthems—Greater than the songs we sing
In our weakness and temptations—We believe we believe

CHORUS

Let the lost be found—
and the dead be raised
In the here and now let love invade
Let the church live loud our God we’ll say—
We believe we believe
And the gates of hell will not prevail
For the pow’r of God has torn the veil
Now we know Your love will never fail
We believe we believe

He’s coming back again—
He’s coming back again
We believe we believe
LORD I NEED YOU

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me. CHORUS

So, teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay. CHORUS

HOLY SPIRIT

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
No thing can compare; You're our living hope.
Your Presence.

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,
where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone,
In Your Presence, Lord.

CHORUS: Holy Spirit, you are welcome here;
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
To be overcome by your Presence, Lord.

Let us become more aware of your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of your goodness,
Let us become more aware of your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of your goodness, CHORUS

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
BENEDICTION

Pastor:  The Lord bless you and keep you.
        The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
        The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
        Numbers 6:24–26

People:  Amen.

CLOSING SONG   STEP BY STEP

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
I will seek You in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in Your way;
And step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.  (Repeat from beginning)
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor:  Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People:  Thanks be to God.
“WILL ANY ONE OF YOU WHO HAS A SERVANT SAY TO HIM ... ‘COME AT ONCE AND RECLINE AT TABLE’?”

LUKE 17:7, ESV
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT          Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES      Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT                  Ann Kaneko
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST                Diana Gaide
YOUTH BAND                       Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER                            Scott Luethy
     8:00
     10:30
LECTOR                           Annette Wolfer
     8:00
     10:30
ACOLYTE                          Chrissy Coon
     8:00
     10:30
USHERS                           Joyce Dowdy, Camryn Goff, Athenia Michel, Carol Stamp
     8:00
     10:30
SERVER                           Jude Donovan
     10:30
ALTAR GUILD                      Dawn Munson, Judy Peterson, Cathy Utecht, Barb Williams
FLOWERS                          The Mills Family, in loving memory of Kevin on his birthday.

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“INCREASE OUR FAITH!”
LUKE 17:5