

Lutheran Church of the Master
580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor
Sunday, March 7, 2010
A Celebration of the Life and Resurrection of
Louis Guizzetti
“An Ancient Instrument ... a New Song”

Daniel 3:5; Daniel 3:10; Daniel 3:15 (New International Version)

New International Version (NIV)

Daniel 3:5

⁵ *As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.*

Possible ancient origins

Evidence of pre-medieval bagpipes is uncertain, but several textual and visual clues may possibly indicate ancient forms of bagpipes. In the second century AD, [Suetonius](#) described the Roman Emperor [Nero](#) as a player of the *tibia utricularis*. [Dio Chrysostom](#), who also flourished in the first century, wrote about a contemporary sovereign (possibly Nero) who could play a pipe ("aulein") with his mouth as well as with his "armpit". From this account, some believe that the *tibia utricularis* was a bagpipe.

A detail from the [Galician Cantigas de Santa Maria](#) showing bagpipes with one chanter and a parallel drone (13th Century).

In the early part of the second millennium, bagpipes began to appear with frequency in European art and iconography. The [Cantigas de Santa Maria](#), compiled in [Castile](#) in the mid-13th Century, depict several types of bagpipes. ^[3] Though evidence of bagpipes in the British Isles prior to the 14th Century is contested, bagpipes are explicitly mentioned in [The Canterbury Tales](#) (written around 1380): *A baggepype wel coude he blowe and sowne, /And ther-with-al he broghte us out of towne.*

Actual examples of bagpipes from before the 18th century are extremely rare; however, a substantial number of paintings, carvings, engravings, manuscript illuminations, and so on survive. They make it clear that bagpipes varied hugely throughout Europe, and even within individual regions. Many examples of early folk bagpipes in Continental Europe can be found in the paintings of Brueghel, Teniers, Jordaens and Durer.

The reason I mention this is that, Kara says that Lou always wanted to have bagpipies played at his funeral.

I never had that conversation with Lou ... as a matter of fact, I only had three conversations with ... a brief one here in the sanctuary ... I think it was Christmas Eve ... the last time he was in this place ... and then two visits at Loyola.

Lou's faith impressed me ...he was Roman Catholic to the end (or should we say, to the beginning through the Resurrection) ... he was open to my visits and to my prayers ... but he was a good Roman Catholic ... sacraments were to be provided by Roman Catholic priests, Roman Catholic chaplains, and Roman Catholic Eucharistic Ministers. As a matter of fact, after talking with him at Loyola I contacted the chaplain's office there (since I am also a chaplain in another hospital system) ... and I complained on Lou's behalf that the chaplains weren't visiting him often enough.

The last time I was there, I was going up in the elevator to his floor ... and the person in the elevator with me had the name badge on saying that she was in charge of chaplaincy for Loyola ... so I asked her if she knew Lou ... and she did ... and she told me within the constraints of JHACO and HIPAA regulations how often she and their department had been in or at least been by (because sometimes the staff will tell us that this is not a good time to visit the patient).

Yesterday afternoon, Stephanie and Daniel stood in front of this altar and exchanged their marriage vows ... in which they said:

I love you.
You are my best friend.
Today I give myself to you in marriage.
I promise to encourage and to inspire you,
to laugh with you,
and to comfort you
in times of sorrow and struggle.
I promise to love you in good times and in bad,
when life seems easy and when it seems hard,
when our love is simple, and when it is an effort.
I promise to cherish you,
and to always hold you in highest regard
These things I give to you today,
and all the days of our life.

When they repeated that last line ... I thought of this service ... how all of us who are married say that expecting that it will be a long time off ... but sometimes ... it comes far too soon. So in prayer yesterday, we prayed for you.

Yesterday afternoon, Eileen and I went to Our Saviour's in Arlington Heights so we could worship together this weekend. That service included a healing service, and it included these words:

"In baptism we were anointed with the oil of salvation and joined to you,

Lord Jesus Christ, in death and resurrection.”

We prayed for you yesterday ... and then we went to the table where we participated in this foretaste of what is to come in holy communion.

This morning, Eileen was sponsoring a shower for our son and daughter-in-law and their soon to arrive baby ... so I went to our church, Holy Cross, in Libertyville. My pastor mentioned chaos theory ... our need for control ... our desire for certainty ... and how given the limits of human understanding and the mysteries of our life ... there are often no answers to the questions that we ask in the midst of chaos and tragedy. But the confidence for the Christian is always in this: “God is there in the midst of the chaos!” Yes, we seek simplicity ... but we must also respect complexity as Sam Keen says ... and there are no simple answers to why now ... why him ... and then we went to the table to celebrate the presence of God in the midst of our life in this meal!

So ... I heard that Kara had mentioned that Lou wanted a bagpipe ... and then I saw the bulletin cover with the solitary bagpiper on it ... so I went to the internet ... and I found the information I just shared with you ...

And then it hit me ... there are very few things of which this can be said ... but I realized that the bagpipe is “an ancient instrument singing a new song.” If indeed *King Nebuchadnezzar’s pipe* is related to the bagpipes in today’s parade, wedding, funeral, and St Patrick’s Day parties ... then this ancient instrument is one of the few things that has come down from the days of Hebrew Scriptures into the New Testament days to the modern church ... if Nero’s *tibia utricularis* REALLY WAS a bagpipe ... then we can imagine it being played in the distance as Jesus walked with his disciples ... and then we can imagine it being played solemnly behind the crucified one ... then we can imagine it joyfully heralding the resurrection of Christ ... and we can see thousands or millions of Christians walking to and through cemeteries to its sometimes eerie cadence ... because in so many ways and on so many occasions this ancient instrument has been leading us, the People of God, in proclaiming our faith in the resurrection of Jesus.

And that is what we are here this evening to proclaim ... to Lou’s family ... to our congregational family ... and to the entire community gathered in this place. There is much about the circle of life that we don’t understand ... especially when death comes too soon (at least so it seems from our perspective) ... but in the midst of our uncertainty about it, we gather to proclaim our confidence in this: Jesus Christ, the one crucified, has been raised from the dead ... and because he lives, we have every confidence that we shall life too.

That is why we share this meal again this evening. We call it “communion” or “The Mass” ... but what we all mean in this meal is that Jesus is truly present IN, WITH, AND UNDER these forms of bread and wine ... and this meal is a foretaste of what is going to happen when and as we all gather in the Heavenly Hilton and share a party that will last an eternity.

The Church celebrates as its members, one by one, pass through the gate and grave of death and enter into the blessed rest of everlasting life into the Church Triumphant ... but that same Church Militant (still living in this place and time) grieves each passing at the same time ... loving the ones who die, we know we will miss them for the rest of our life times until we too join them there.

Here in this place we celebrate in the midst of our grief;
Here in this place we proclaim Jesus Risen from the dead as we go to the cemetery;
Here in this place we live in the already but not yet Resurrection;
Here in this place we know that when death is done with us and can do no more ... then comes our resurrection ...

Psalm 27:13-14 (New International Version)

¹³ I am still confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.