

GraceFlock is the praise and worship band from Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Peachtree City, GA. Profits from the sales of this CD will go toward GraceFlock ministries at Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church which work to bring the love of Christ to our communities through contemporary music.

To order the Life CD and other GraceFlock items, visit [www.graceflock.com](http://www.graceflock.com). For those interested in more information on Lutheran contemporary worship, booking GraceFlock (concerts, workshops), lead sheets, or songbooks, feel free to contact us at [GraceFlock@comcast.net](mailto:GraceFlock@comcast.net) (Lans Rothfusz), [GraceFlock@hotmail.com](mailto:GraceFlock@hotmail.com) (Gary Pederson), or through Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church ([www.coslutheran.org](http://www.coslutheran.org)).

**GraceFlock:**

James Callison: Guitars  
Karla Dietmeyer: Violin  
Penny Kahley: Vocals  
Karen Ladman: Vocals

Robin Merriman: 12-String Guitar,  
Autoharp

Gary Pederson: Guitar, Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals

Brandon Rothfusz: Bass, Trombone  
Kathy Rothfusz: Flute, Piccolo, Bassoon, Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Keyboards, Drums, Guitars,  
Mandolin, Synths, Vocals

Preston Rothfusz: Drums (Sinking Sand), Trombone  
Mark Summers: Drums, Percussion

Sue Summers: Vocals  
Frank Trembley: Electric and Classical Guitars

**Guest artists include:**

Sean Wetli: Trumpets on "Create In Me"

Dave Sanders: 1st Trombone on "Create In Me"

Sallie Satterthwaite and Lily Merriman: Intro Vocals on "Create In Me"

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir: "Gloria in the Highest"

Martha Kahley: Clarinet on "Here We Go, Mercy"

All songs used by permission of Gary A. Pederson and Lans P. Rothfusz.

Recorded and produced in the Rothfusz Studios, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Artwork by Marquita Schneider Foster. Artwork digitizing and formatting by Mac McLaughlin.

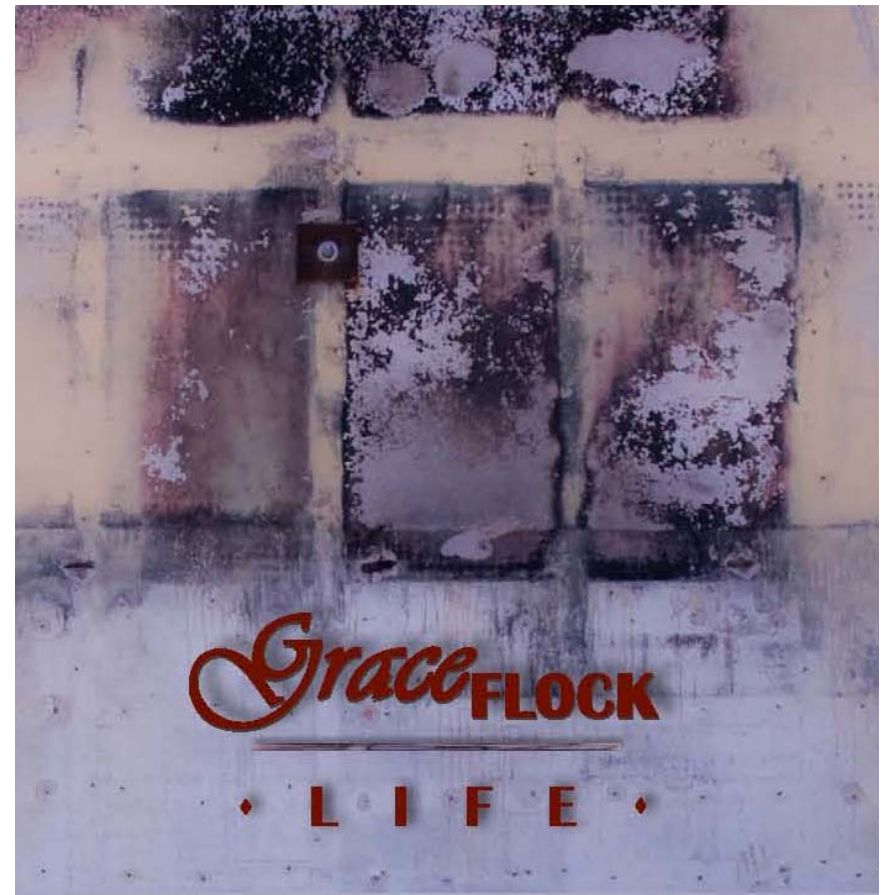
©2010 by GraceFlock, Peachtree City, GA. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction of the recording is prohibited by Federal law and subject to criminal prosecution.

1. The Living Bread (3:26)
2. Angels Gather Here (3:02)
3. Sacrament of Sacrifice (3:56)
4. Sinking Sand (3:53)
5. Power of the Cross (2:39)
6. Gloria in the Highest (3:41)
7. Save This Child (2:57)
8. Create In Me (3:16)
9. The Wilderness (2:34)
10. Here We Go, Mercy (3:49)
11. Touch Your Side (3:10)
12. Choose the Right One (3:46)
13. Questions Rain (3:40)
14. Radiant Word Alive (3:27)

## ◆ Life ◆

# GraceFlock

## Lyrics and Composer Comments for the "Life" CD



### **The Living Bread**

(Eph. 4:25-5:2; John 6:35-51)

Curb my anger. Feed my hunger. Let my spirit shine.  
Make me worthy of eternal life that will be mine.  
Lord, I dedicate and consecrate my life to serve.  
I'm the offering and I'm bringing joy to live in love.  
Keep me strong. Feed me on... the Living Bread!

*Feed my soul with the Living Bread.  
Touch my heart, anoint my head.  
Jesus, I do believe.  
Feed my soul with the Living Bread.  
Touch my heart, anoint my head.  
Jesus, I do believe in you  
And what you said.  
Christ, you are The Living Bread!  
The Living Bread!*

Spirit-sealed in my baptism, I am called to love.  
Here below I imitate the One who reigns above.  
Lord, I dedicate and consecrate my life to serve.  
I'm the offering and I'm bringing joy to live in love.  
Keep me strong. Feed me on... the Living Bread! (Chorus & Interlude)

*You are The Way.  
You are the Truth, Lord.  
You are the Bread of Life Eternal. (Chorus)*

©2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

*Penny Kahley: Vocals  
Gary Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Guitars, Synthesizers, Lead Vocals  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar*

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

This driving song was written in response to one of GraceFlock's "composers' challenges." This happens when, while picking songs for upcoming worship services, the band realizes there just aren't any good contemporary Lutheran songs that fit the scripture for a particular Sunday (with all due respect to the ELW composers and contributors). Gary or I occasionally offer to fill the void with an original song. "The Living Bread" is based on Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and John 6:35, 41-51 which falls on 10th Sunday of Pentecost (Year B) in the Lutheran Lectionary. Fortunately, there are several Sundays where "living bread" is a theme, so we get to use this song more than once every three years. With the mixed meter and tight harmonies, it is one of the most challenging of the GraceFlock songs. The rhythm section of Brandon Rothfusz (bass) and Mark Summers (drums) really drives the song forward.

### **Radiant Word Alive**

(John 1:1-18)

Smaller hands apply themselves determined not to fail.  
A father watches patiently and beams when loves prevails.  
The fullness of a father's heart is bright upon his face.  
The child who knows that loving gaze reflects the heart of grace.

*Radiant light. Radiant love.  
Radiant Word Alive.  
Grace upon joy, grace upon sorrow,  
Grace upon grace arrived  
As the Radiant Word Alive!  
Radiant Word, shine on!*

My attention wanders off and I can't see your face.  
But you revealed your precious Word to show me truth and grace.  
And by His life of selfless love I see what I should be.  
I set my hope in Christ and then embrace my destiny! (Chorus)

Darkness in the world is deep. It overshadows me.  
But my advantage shines in Christ, the one true light I see.  
The power of the Living Word has made me come to be  
A child of God, born yet again; empowered, loved and free!

*Radiant light. Radiant love.  
Radiant Word Alive.  
Grace upon joy, grace upon sorrow,  
Grace upon grace arrived  
As the Radiant Word Alive!  
Radiant Word, shine... Radiant Word, shine...  
Radiant Word, shine on!*

© 2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

*James Callison: Acoustic Guitar  
Gary Pederson: Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Lead Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Electric Guitar, Synthesizers, Lead Vocals  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar*

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

Man, oh, man!! Is Frank Trembley a gift to GraceFlock, or what? Although it didn't start that way, this song became a showpiece of Frank's stupendous guitar talents. "Radiant Word Alive" was written for the 2nd Sunday of Christmas (Year B – John 1:1-18) to sing of that special relationship between a father and a son – but, especially, how God, the Father, is made known to us by the works of his only Son. As John puts it so eloquently, "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known." Christ, the Radiant Word of God come alive, is our way to know the Father, and this song was written to help us make that connection.

## **Questions Rain**

(Exodus 3:14)

Sometimes hours are like seconds in my day,  
Little time to search at all.  
Lost and wandering seem to define my path,  
And I cry “When did I fall?”  
My friends just cannot find a reason to believe,  
With no faith and little hope.  
Is this all there is? Or is there something more?  
Questions rain and I can’t cope.

*God, don't give up on me yet,  
Even though I've given you no reason to remain.  
God, don't give up on this lost and lonely soul.  
Here I am. Lord, here I am. Here I am. Lord, here I am.*

Troubles seem to rise when things aren't going great.  
You know the bad, it comes in threes.  
A pessimist can find a cloud in every sky,  
And a flaw in every scene.  
However did I start to view my life  
Through this fatalistic, so-material dream?  
For I knew that you were with me years ago,  
And even now, truth makes me scream. *(Chorus, Interlude, Chorus)*

Is this all there is? Or is there something more?  
Questions rain. Hear I AM.

© 2009 by Gary A. Pederson

Karen Ladman: Vocals  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Lans Rothfusz: Organ, Electric Guitar  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

The teenage years are a time of life with so much happening and so many questions flying about that we really don't know where to go. Our faith as a young child was so simple with “Jesus loves me” being all that we needed. But as we grow, we start to question what life is all about and how God factors into our lives, friends, goals, careers, troubles, and dreams. We see people with no faith and pessimistic attitudes about life in general; feeling that things can only get worse. We wonder how they got that attitude. We wonder if we really understand anything, when it all seemed so clear to us earlier. Too many questions and not enough answers. But God is there for us! He sees us where we're at. He won't give up on us; even when we wander. This song ends with a play on words relating to God as I AM in Exodus 3:14. When questions rain about us in our mind and in our lives, we need to listen and hear God... hear I AM.

## **Angels Gather Here**

O my child. In a valley,  
I don't see a way to climb out from so low.  
O my child. Steep and rocky  
Is the path on which I soon must try to go.

*And I know the one who loves me,  
And I know the one who cares,  
But I long to see the soaring angels' glow.  
I just see familiar faces, and I hear familiar words,  
Telling me what I should already know.  
As angels gather here.*

O my child. Someone's watching,  
And I think I hear a voice within my head.  
O my child. Someone's guiding,  
In a soft and gentle tone by which I'm led. *(Chorus)*

O my child. See my road now;  
Lots of twists and turns and struggles on the way.  
O my child. Follow closely,  
In the shelter of the wings now here to stay. *(Chorus)*

© 2008 by Gary A. Pederson

James Callison: Acoustic Guitar  
Robin Merriman: 12-String Guitar, Autoharp  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Lans Rothfusz: Synthesizers, Mandolin  
Mark Summers: Drums

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

Angels Gather Here is a song that has different meanings to different people. It is a little more obscure than many of my songs. I think each of us may get something different out of a song... and that's OK. If you know what this song means to you and you are comfortable with it, then you don't need to read any further. If you are still here, then I'll tell you what this song means to me. One of my daughters was on a bit of a rocky path in her life... “Oh my child”. Life leads us on a rocky path sometimes, but we need to realize that God is there to watch, guide, and shelter us. And we know that. We know God loves and cares for us. Yet sometimes we long for our own personal miracle. We need a little hope. We want angels guiding us as they led the shepherds to Bethlehem. And we don't see the angels. Where are they? We come to church and hear God's word. We know the familiar Bible stories. But throughout it all, little do we know that God's presence and his angels from the past, present, and future are here among and around us now. God's hope is here! We don't need a big miracle with glowing angels soaring overhead leading the way. We need to realize that the angels (i.e. God's hope) are already gathering here right now!

## **Sacrament of Sacrifice**

The sacrament of sacrifice reveals the victory.  
The sacrament of sacrifice feeds this family.  
It feeds this family.

*In the myst'ry of the moment,  
You're here, and we are holding you.  
From our hands we taste the promise  
Of love in hands that hold us, too.  
Here the wine and the bread  
Are the blood and the body;  
And we share them as we remember you.  
Yes, we know you are here  
By the power of the Spirit  
Flowing in, flowing under, flowing through. (Repeat Chorus)*

The sacrament of sacrifice reveals the victory.  
The sacrament of sacrifice feeds this family.  
It feeds this family. (Chorus)

The sacrament of sacrifice reveals the victory.  
The sacrament of sacrifice feeds this family.  
It feeds this family. It feeds this family.

© 2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Penny Kahley: Vocals  
Robin Merriman: 12-String Guitar  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Alto Flute, Lead Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Acoustic Guitar, Synthesizers  
Sue Summers: Lead Vocals  
Frank Trembley: Classical Guitar

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

This communion song reflects on the absolute wonder and mystery of the Eucharist, in that the Holy Spirit transforms something so basic to our physical needs into something far greater for our spiritual needs. Martin Luther's premise of consubstantiation in the Eucharist is preserved in this song (without having to sing the word "consubstantiation" - yikes!!) by reminding us that Christ is present in, under, and through the bread and wine. The song also captures the irony that we can hold in our hands the one who holds us in His hands. Above all, this song is intended to set a mood that we, as a family, are being joined with Christ every time we partake in the awesome experience of communion.

## **Choose the Right One**

(Luke 10:38-42)

If your ocean rolls too much,  
If the waves are making you uneasy,  
Find an anchor. Choose the Right One.  
If you feel you're losing touch  
With the shoreline at the edge of your sea,  
Find an anchor. Choose the Right One.  
*Only one of all our choices is the better part.  
Only one of all our choices anchors our hearts forever.  
Choose the Right One.*

If the sky above is gray,  
And the clouds are heavy with your sorrow,  
Find a shelter. Choose the Right One.  
If you're on a narrow way,  
And the night is falling for tomorrow,  
Find a shelter. Choose the Right One.  
*Only one of all our choices is the better part.  
Only one of all our choices shelters our hearts forever.  
Choose the Right One. (Interlude)*

If your song of life is tired,  
And the passion it once had is absent,  
Sing a new song. Choose the Right One.  
If your soul is uninspired,  
And the last string on your harp is silent,  
Sing a new song. Choose the Right One.  
*Only one of all our choices is the better part.  
Only one of all our choices sings in our hearts forever.  
Choose the Right One.*

© 1993 by Lans P. Rothfusz

James Callison: Guitars  
Robin Merriman: 12-String Guitar  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Kathy Rothfusz: Alto Flute, Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Keyboards, Drums, Synthesizers, Lead Vocals

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

I wrote this song in 1993 as a response anthem for an intern pastor in Ft. Worth, TX who used the Victorian painting by G.F. Watts entitled "Hope" as a sermon device. In this painting, a blind-folded woman is portrayed playing a harp with only one string left on it. I loved this metaphor of hope when all else in life was gone. This song was not originally planned to be on the "Life" album; however, GraceFlock played the song in early 2010 and Ms. Linda Volckman heard it and insisted that it be included. Neither Linda nor I recognized how this was God at work. On October 30th, 2010, my mother was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and she died two weeks later. In that time, I was working on "Life" in the studio and this song comforted me in my grief. I am grateful to God for working through Linda to bring the song back to me. It is yet another example of how God gives us exactly what we need, even though we may not recognize it at the time.

## **Touch Your Side**

(John 20:19-31)

Lord, I want to have the faith to just believe,  
Always there, simply care in humble prayer.  
But at times that I have doubts, I hesitate,  
Separate, isolate you, Lord.

*But I know that I'd believe if I could see you with my eyes.  
If I could only touch your hands,  
If I could only touch your side. Touch your side.*

So I run and try to hide and just escape,  
Close the door to ignore or question more.  
Then I feel you still by me with your love,  
Always near reaching to me, Lord. (Chorus)

Help me see you, Lord (Chorus)

If I could only touch your hands, touch your side.  
*Blessed are those who have not seen.*  
If I could only touch your hands, touch your side.  
*Blessed are those who believe.*  
If I could only touch your hands, touch your side.  
*Blessed are those, blessed are those.*  
If I could only touch your hands, touch your side.

©2009 by Gary A. Pederson

Karla Dietmeyer: Violin  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Piano, Electric Guitar, Synthesizers, Vocals  
Mark Summers: Drums

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

I've always found Thomas the Doubter to be a very interesting individual. As a research scientist, I can easily see Thomas' viewpoint. He deals with facts and proof. He knew that Jesus died on the cross and he really had a hard time understanding how the other disciples could claim that he rose. You know eyewitness accounts are often wrong. He didn't believe what they said unless he could see Jesus with his own eyes and touch his wounds. He needed to know that it was really Jesus and not an imposter. Sounds like a scientist, doesn't he? Thomas didn't really have faith in the resurrection; unless he could verify his faith with documented scientific proof. Aren't we like Thomas sometimes? We run and hide and close the door to Jesus; always wanting more proof that he will solve all our problems. We are the little ones crying continually in this song "I know that I'd believe...if I could only touch your hands, touch your side". When Jesus is telling us all along that "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". It is all about faith. Faith in Jesus without seeing the risen Savior with our own eyes walking down the street.

## **Sinking Sand**

When the telephone rings in the middle of the night  
And the words knock me to my knees,  
I am shattering glass on a cold bedroom floor.  
And I cry, "Father, please, please,  
Are you listening now, to the sorrow in the air?  
I'm hurting and simply asking why."  
As I try to recall the comfort of your arms,  
Please hold me and listen to my cry...

*Lift me up from the unexpected. Push away the painful unplanned.  
Feed the faith I've long neglected. Get me off this sinking sand. (Repeat)  
Get me off this sinking sand.*

On a Friday at five, when the supervisor comes  
And hands out life-upending news;  
Or the medical room where the diagnosis leaves  
Little hope and nothing left to choose,  
Are you listening, God, to the sorrow in the air?  
They're hurting and simply asking, "Why?"  
As they try to recall the comfort of your arms  
Please hold them and listen to their cry... (Chorus & Interlude)  
Then a voice in the darkness sings...

*I am there in the unexpected. I am there when it isn't your plan.  
Faith in me is your salvation from a life on sinking sand. (Repeat)  
From a life on sinking sand.*

© 2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

James Callison: Acoustic Guitar  
Karla Dietmeyer: Violin  
Penny Kahley: Vocals  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Piccolo, Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Electric Guitar, Mandolin, Synthesizers, Lead Vocals  
Preston Rothfusz: Drums  
God: Thunder

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

The seeds of this song's inspiration were sown in 2008 when a fellow disciple of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran was laid off his job late in his career. Moved by his loss and others who experienced the same, "Sinking Sand" was given to me to share. Since then, the song has become an anthem to many whose lives have taken unexpected and painful turns. GraceFlock performed this song on its 2009 and 2010 tours and it always seemed to speak to people in the throes of unexpected pain: To Ringtown, PA who lost a phenomenal young man in a tragic accident while selflessly raising awareness for breast cancer; to a coworker of mine whose daughter elected to drive drunk and killed a young man; to my uncle who was told that medical science could no longer help him; to Kathy's mom who passed away unexpectedly prior to our 2009 tour; to friends and relatives who have surprised us with their life decisions; and to... you fill in the gap and use this song to strengthen you whenever you face a moment that hits like a bolt from the blue. God is in the unexpected. Have faith, friends.

## **Power of the Cross**

(1 Cor. 1:18-25)

Where is our sign?  
We want to know where we should go.  
Are we not wise and know it all?  
What is our call?

*God is wiser than the wisest;  
Stronger than the strong.  
He saves us and surrounds us  
By the power of the cross.  
Oh, the power of the cross.  
Oh, the power of the cross.*

Give us the faith  
To see through lies, misguided cries.  
Help us believe,  
With no surprise, Christ crucified. (Chorus)

We're not that wise. We're not that strong.  
Help us to realize. (Chorus)

Oh, the power of the cross.

© 2009 by Gary A. Pederson

James Callison: Electric Guitar  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Organ, Electric Guitar, Synthesizers  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

As humans, it is hard for us to admit that we don't know it all. That someone somewhere is wiser and stronger than us. We search for signs and signals in vain. We try to predict what will happen next and when it will happen. We think that we should be able to figure it all out on our own. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:18-25), he is very blunt about the power of God compared to the power of humankind. God when he is foolish is wiser than us. God at his weakest is stronger than us. The power of God is the power of the cross and Christ crucified. We need the faith and realization that this true power of the cross was given by God to us to save us from our sin. Oh, the power of the cross! Believe in it!

## **Here We Go, Mercy**

Look at my boat. It won't sail. I have tried and I've failed  
I need a good, steady breeze for my sails to fill and carry me.  
Look at my life. Make it more than a boat on a shore.  
Take me away from my sin, fill me with your all-forgiving wind.

*Here we go, mercy! Here we go, sunshine!  
Here we go, born again, to love the world anew.  
Here we go, Jesus. Here we go, Savior.  
Here we go faithfully to love the world with you.*

If I just look, I will see broken lives needing me.  
What could be worse than to live life unloved when I have love to give?  
If I have stones in my hands, help my heart understand  
It is just me and my pride. When I judge. I am not qualified. (Chorus, Chorus)

We're called. We're chosen.  
We're leaven to the loaf and  
Everything we're called to do  
We're called to do in love! (Chorus)

*Love the world with you.  
Love the world with you.  
Love the world with you.*

© 2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

Karen Ladman: Vocals  
Gary Pederson: Vocals  
Christine Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Organ, Electric Guitar, Synthesizers, Lead Vocals  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Martha Kahley: Clarinet

We all do it. We all judge those different from ourselves for a variety of generally-negative reasons (fear, mistrust, idealism, ignorance, self-righteousness, etc.). How can we not see that doing so is completely at odds with what God asks of us? As Christ says in John 8:7, "Let the one who is without sin throw the first stone." In the context of our judgmental tendencies, "Here We Go, Mercy" was written around the lyrical phrase "I am not qualified." The melodic phrase came to me in the middle of the night and I spent the rest of the day completing the song – it wouldn't leave him alone. The Caribbean theme of the song grew from the opening line of "Look at my boat..." which I can only attribute to the Holy Spirit putting that phrase in my head. The rest of the song just happened and is intended to say that, despite our human failings, mercy, sunshine (metaphor for love), and our Savior will accompany us in bringing love to a broken and confused world. By the way, even though Martha Kahley may never want to hear herself playing this song, her clarinet work is just way too cool! (Way to go, Martha!) Here we go, Jesus, let us love the world with you!

## **The Wilderness**

(Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

*Lost within the wilderness,  
For forty days, far from your side.  
My sin still keeps me from you.  
Prepare me now, my repentance guide.*

I hunger for your meaning, try to fast from earthly wants.  
Let me trust your word to fill me with my needs. (Chorus)

I pray for ample riches and the power of your own.  
Help me humbly learn to worship and to serve. (Chorus)

I claim to be so righteous, yet I put you to the test.  
Give me faith to simply let you live in me. (Interlude)

*Jesus in the wilderness,  
For forty days, the trials defied.  
Now sin can't keep me from you.  
And Lord, I cry, that you would die...  
for me.*

©2009 by Gary A. Pederson

Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Lead Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Electric Guitar, Synthesizers  
Mark Summers: Drums

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

The Wilderness prepares and guides our repentance during the forty days of Lent. This song is based on the devil's three temptations of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. The order of temptations within Luke is followed in the three verses, as each verse is connected to one of the temptations. The first verse speaks of hunger and fasting as Jesus states that you live by the word of God which fills your needs [Matthew 4:4. *One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*]. The second verse speaks of the riches and power we try to obtain, when we should concentrate on worshiping and serving God [Luke 4:8. *Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him*]. The third verse speaks of how we put God to the test, when we need to simply believe in him [Luke 4:12. *Do not put the Lord your God to the test*]. By Jesus being in the wilderness defying the temptations and saving us from our sin, we too shall live. Thanks to my wife, Christie, who gives this song the tone of repentance for our journey through the wilderness of Lent to the risen Lord at Easter.

## **Gloria in the Highest**

(Luke 2:14)

Gloria in the highest.  
Gloria in the highest.

*Gloria in the highest. Gloria.  
Gloria in the highest. Gloria.*

And on earth... peace.  
And on earth... peace. (Chorus)

Good will among... all.  
Good will among... all. (Chorus)

Gloria in the highest heaven above.  
Gloria in the highest heaven above. (Chorus)

*The angels cried, "Gloria!"  
The shepherds cried, "Gloria!"  
The children cried, "Gloria!"  
The people cried, "Gloria!"*

© 2005 by Gary A. Pederson

Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass  
Kathy Rothfusz: Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Electric Guitar, Synthesizers  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar  
Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

My subtitle for this song has always been "not all angels played the harp". Let me explain. Christmas is a wonderful time of the year with lovely Christmas carols being played on the radio and in stores starting after Thanksgiving... or maybe now it is slightly after Halloween! We all know and love the familiar carols with their joyous sounds and flowing harmonies. I can't imagine Christmas without these familiar carols. But I don't want the sounds of Christmas to be put in a box, wrapped with the same paper and ribbons each year. The birth of the baby Jesus is something to be celebrated every way possible and not just in the flowing traditions of the past. I believe that now in heaven above there are angels singing "Gloria" with more accompaniment than just a harp or pipe organ. With the wonderful arrangement that Lans Rothfusz put together, we overlaid the simple words of "*Gloria in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will among all*" with the driving and playful rhythms of guitar, drums, and synthesizer. Then the simple message and contemporary sounds blend together with the traditional to finish with the lovely choral harmonies of the Christ Our Shepherd Sanctuary choir. So let all God's people cry "Gloria in the Highest" in every way possible!

## **Save This Child**

(Psalm 86)

In the quiet of the night, Lord, I lift my soul up.  
Trusting that you will hear my cry.  
When I call your name, O Lord, I know you will answer.  
For you are my God and I'm your child.

*I give thanks to you, O God, I will glorify forever.  
Great is your love that comforts me.  
I give thanks to you, O God, I will glorify forever  
Show me your grace. Save this child.*

There is none like you, O Lord, nor like this world created.  
Nations bow down and praise your name.  
Lead me in your ways, O Lord, so I may walk in your truth  
Unite my heart to only praise. (*Chorus, Interlude, Chorus*)

*Give me your strength. Save this child.  
Lord, comfort me. Save this child.*

© 2002 by Gary A. Pederson

Penny Kahley: Lead Vocals  
Gary Pederson: Acoustic Guitar  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Kathy Rothfusz: Bassoon  
Lans Rothfusz: Synthesizers  
Frank Trembley: Classical Guitar

### **Composer Comments (Gary Pederson)**

There are many beautiful statements found within the Psalms that lend themselves to music. This song is inspired by a psalm of David, Psalm 86. It is intended to be a quiet, contemplative song. As with many psalms, this psalm speaks to us of quiet prayer and joyful praise of thanks and glory to God. The title is based on thoughts in verse 16 which speaks of God saving the child of his handmaid or servant. I expanded these thoughts to make the song more personal in manner. When we pray or talk with God, it is a very private matter; speaking in the quiet night and calling or crying to our Father. We sing our thanks to God for his comfort and grace. We pray to God for guidance and strength and truth. And we pray that he will save us... his child.

## **Create In Me**

(Psalm 51)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a right spirit within.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And let the joy begin.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a right spirit within.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And let the joy begin. Let it begin.*

I have sinned, I confess, by evils in your sight.  
You are justified to judge and hold me to your light.  
Sin was there when I was born, it never set me free.  
In your great compassion, Lord, grant your mercy. (*Chorus*)

You delight in the truth I'm holding deep inside.  
Purify my life to cleanse the shamefulness I hide.  
Let my broken bones receive the joy of living free.  
Hide your face but only from my iniquities. (*Interlude and Chorus*)

© 2009 by Lans P. Rothfusz

Robin Merriman: Autoharp  
Christie Pederson: Vocals  
Brandon Rothfusz: Bass, Trombone  
Kathy Rothfusz: Lead Vocals  
Lans Rothfusz: Electric Guitar, Mandolin, Synthesizers, Vocals  
Preston Rothfusz: Trombone  
Mark Summers: Drums  
Frank Trembley: Lead Guitar  
Sean Wetli: Trumpet  
Dave Sanders: Trombone  
Sallie Satterthwaite and Lily Merriman: Intro Vocals

### **Composer Comments (Lans Rothfusz)**

Oh, what a joy it was to produce this song!! It was written as yet another GraceFlock composers' challenge for the 9th Sunday of Pentecost (Year B) and is based on Psalm 51. A simple plea for us to live more God-centered lives, the song gained a new dimension when a charter member of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ms. Sallie Satterthwaite, agreed to sing the opening segment with Ms. Lily Merriman, the 12-year old daughter of Robin and Leslie Merriman. From the studio effect making these two lovely ladies sound like they were recorded 50 years ago, to the swinging lilt of Kathy singing lead vocal, this song became a multi-generational testimonial for keeping our hearts open to the cleansing, joy-producing gift of God's love. Thank you, Sallie, Lily, and Kathy for making this song work! Thanks, also, to the horn section of Sean "Three-Trumpets-at-Once" Wetli, Dave Sanders, and the two best trombone players in the Rothfusz family, Brandon and Preston, for making this song really jump!! Let the joy begin!!