

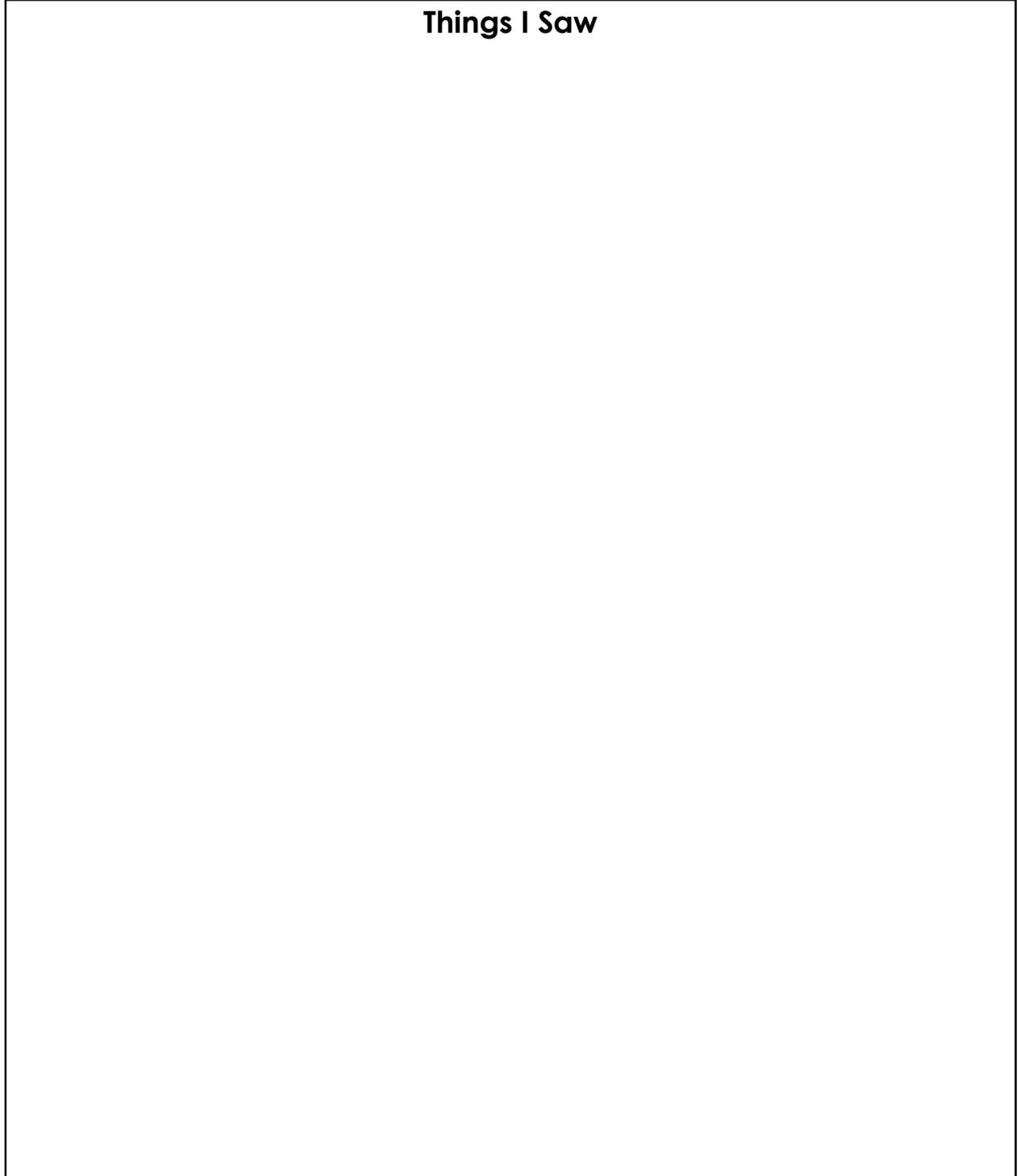
Third Sunday after Resurrection

Lectionary Title 21: **Affirming Christ's Lordship**

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Draw, paste real objects or pictures, or finger paint the things that you saw.

Things I Saw

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for children to draw, paste, or finger paint. The text "Things I Saw" is centered at the top of the box.

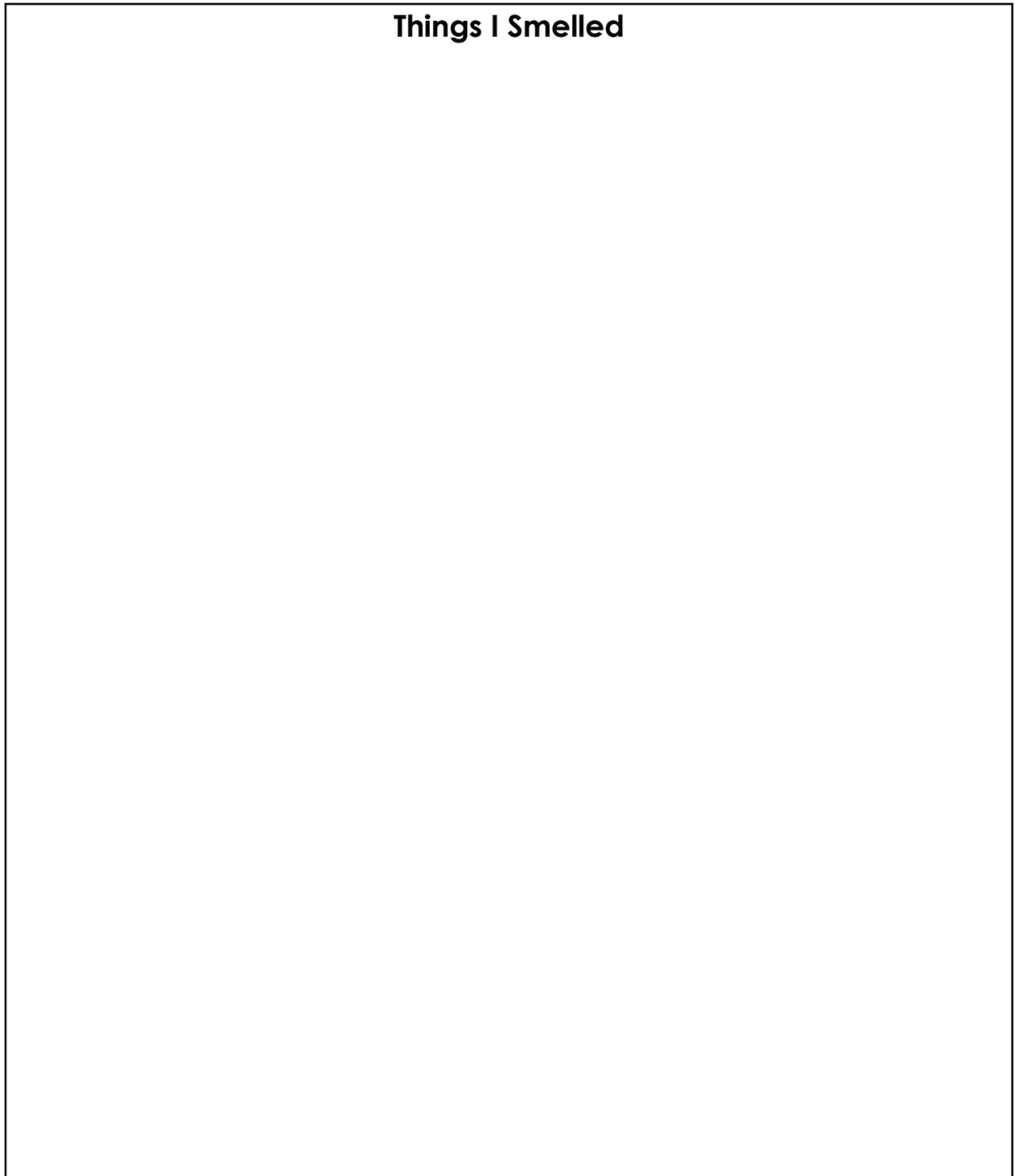
Third Sunday after Resurrection

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Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Draw, paste real objects or pictures, or finger paint the things that you smelled.

Things I Smelled



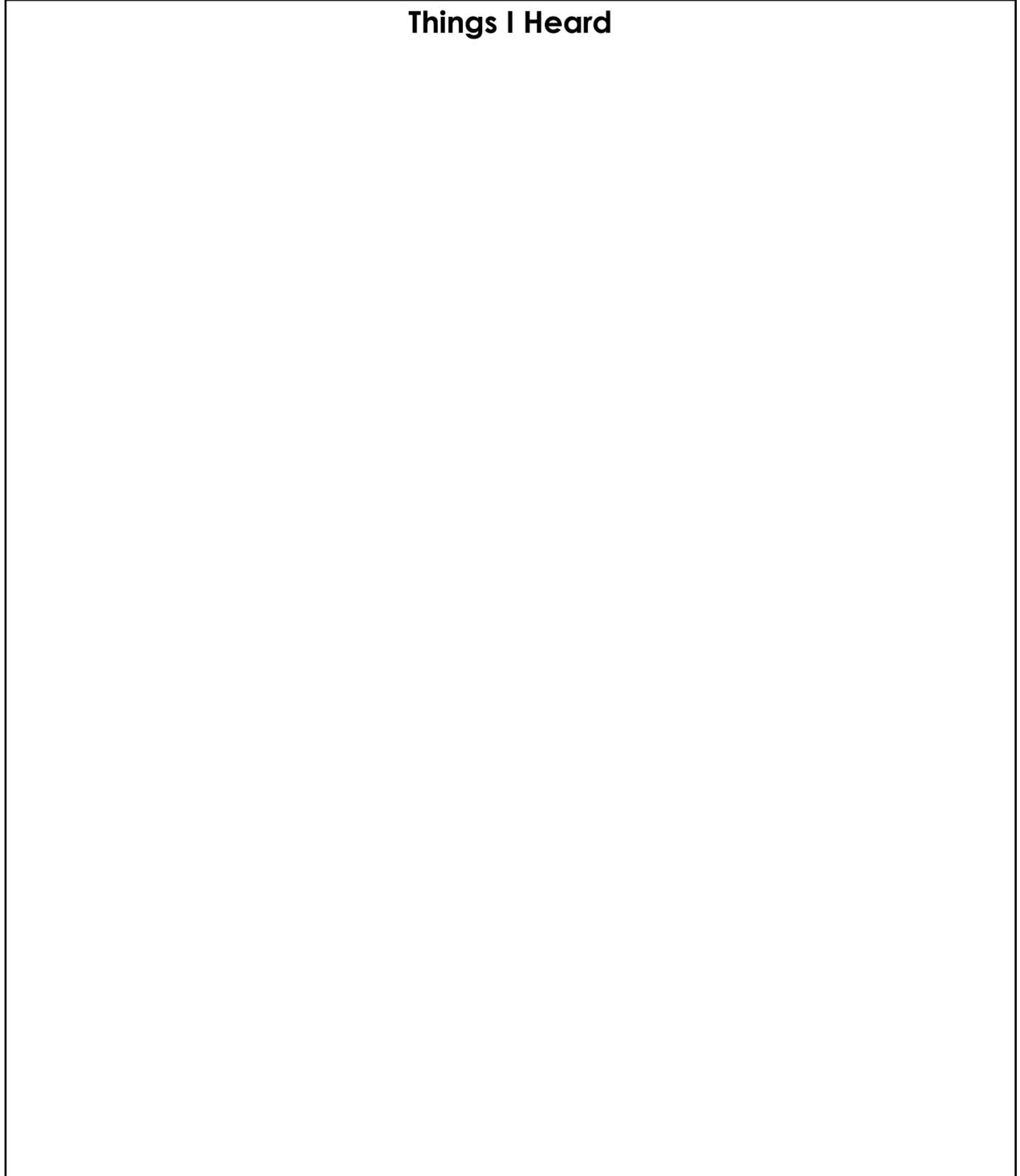
Third Sunday after Resurrection

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Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Draw, paste real objects or pictures, or finger paint the things that you heard.

Things I Heard

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for children to draw, paste, or finger paint their response to the text above. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the page.

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Middle Elementary/Older Elementary Levels

Ask the class to write about the following:

A verse that you want to remember	A reason to praise God after reading Psalm 24:1-2
An idol that distracts us from worshipping God	A commitment to respond to God's goodness
Something you received that you are thankful to God	Part of creation that has a special effect on you

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Youth Level

Write what you think when you see these words.

Group 1

Group 2

EARTH	WORSHIP
LORD	IDOLS

Read the paragraphs. Tell why you agree or disagree.

Group 1

Group 2

<p>Related to Psalm 24:1-2</p> <p>Our exegesis reads: "There is only one creator, redeemer, sustainer God who reigns sovereign over all creation, and no creature, no matter how gifted he or she may be, can ever make such a claim. The creature can never take the place of the creator."</p> <p>"Jesus is the Lord of Creation. He alones deserves all worship."</p>	<p>Related to 1 Corinthians 10:14</p> <p>"To avoid idolatry is to reject any attachment to anything that ruins our relationship with God and with others. It is avoiding all efforts that advance selfish interest at the expense of other people's welfare and happiness. It is finding one's own peace and security solely in God as one simply puts all his/ her trust and faith in God's ability to sustain, protect, and redeem the faithful even in the most difficult of times."</p> <p>According to Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."</p>
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Youth Level

Answer these questions orally.

1. Who owns the earth, and those who live in it based on Psalm 24:1-2?
2. How can you relate this truth to the experiences that you have shared at the beginning of this lesson?
3. Why is this significant?

“Anything that replaces people's loyalty and obedience to God becomes an idol; something that becomes more valuable than kingdom values of peace, justice, caring, sharing, service is an idol. Worship is not just confined to church services; worship is the feeling of adoration and the importance/value that a person places on something. It is possible for Christians to worship idols! When money becomes more important than sharing, money can be considered an idol. When personal gain is valued more than justice, it becomes an idol. and their likes.”

4. In Psalm 24, David asks, “Who can stand in God's presence?”
5. What other idols that people may have been worshipping today?

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Adult Level

Find your group. Read the excerpts from the Exegesis for the Biblical References and Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users using this outline. Then share your insights.

Group 1. The declaration of David of the Lord and glorious King of the Kingdom that belongs totally to the King of kings.

- a. Psalm 24 is a poetry attributed to King David, It takes the form of a song sung during worship or celebration in ancient Israel. The psalmist here is praising God's lordship over all realms, affirming God as the creator of all things and that everything belongs to God. By strong implication, the psalmist affirms that God owns all things and humbles and mocks anyone who claims lordship over creation other than God. It is a praise that also warns those who may attempt to attribute creation to other gods apart from the creator God. There is no power and being in this world to whom the origins, the existence, meaning, sustenance and redemption of all creation from the forces of chaos may be attributed. There is only one creator, redeemer, sustainer God who reigns sovereign over all creation, and no creature, no matter how gifted he or she may be, can ever make such a claim. The creature can never take the place of the creator. The mortal can never assume the powers of an eternal, immortal being. This relationship can never be reversed. The creature should always be reminded of his/her proper place in the scheme of creation.
- b. At the very outset it must be made clear that Christ's lordship over all the earth is not a chauvinistic claim against other communities of faith. It is addressed to Christians who lack the will to submit all of life under Christ's lordship. They would rather reserve some compartments of their lives for loyalties other than Jesus Christ upon whom God has granted all authorities in heaven and on earth. These objects of loyalties are called idols because they are formed and chosen by their worshippers. A favorite idol, for example is Profit. It's an idol that rivals Jesus Christ because its domains are strictly off limits to the gospel's demands. Another idol that rivals Christ's lordship is called Political Expediency. When politics is played without ethical considerations it becomes an alien domain that shuts out the gospel. And there are many lesser idols that compromise Christ's sovereignty.
- c. The worship of idols is not confined to the occasion of personal, family or public worship. It takes place most hours of the day on a daily basis. In fact, worshipping the Lord Jesus may be confined only to an hour or two on Sundays at the church. For all intents and purposes, idols may be worshipped more regularly and religiously than the one true God. The UCCP declaration that Jesus is the living Lord of all of life and of all creation cannot be compromised. Rather, it must be affirmed again and again every time believers of Christ are faced with situations that challenge the gospel. It is a primary task of the church to remind the members of Peter's declaration – "I would rather obey God than man" – especially during its community gathering in worship.

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Adult Level

Group 2. Paul instructs us to flee from idolatry.

- a. Paul's warning for Christians to flee from idolatry is part of his long list of warnings not to succumb to the same sins committed by their forebears. Paul encouraged the Christians not to partake and participate in any idol worship as this is not in accordance to the teachings they inherited from Jesus.
- b. we have the church and faithful servants who are the Pauls of modern times who continue to remind us to flee from idolatry. God through the church and its members continue to remind us not to commit the same mistakes of our history but learn from these mistakes. We must be vigilant in guarding the interest of the mission of the church in our community. We must be conscious always in everything we do and aspire for in life, and of the time and effort we spend on such things that can become our own idols. We must not blindly accept and embrace concepts that represent idolatrous values and perspectives, and which prevent us from being possessed by that spirit of selfless service and witness to the love and righteousness of our God in and through Jesus. Just like the Psalmist we need to passionately affirm the lordship of God in all creation, in all spheres of life, possessed by that same spirit and exhibiting the same zeal when affirming the lordship of Christ in our own daily work and activities.
- c. The challenge of the environment is posed most urgently to all of humankind. Scientists have found out that the current environmental crisis that is leading to an ecological catastrophe is human-made. People that are supposed to have a Christian conscience cannot escape from the Lord's judgment because they form part of a cabal of economic and financial managers who make decisions in obedience to the commands of idols. It is a test of the church's loyalty to the risen Jesus to announce God's judgment on a world for its failure to stop the continuing despoliation of creation.