



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • SCHOOL

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2022 - 5:00 PM

MARCH 20, 2022 - 10:45 AM



THE TREE OF LIFE

Sunday Lenten Series and Graphics created by Nick Klemetson



THE TREE OF LIFE

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4 (KJV)

Psalm 23 is a microcosm of a journey from despair and loneliness to everlasting joy and comfort. In the span of three verses, we are taken from the darkest valley to the ultimate destination of our faith, **The House of the Lord**.

This Lenten 5-part series will take us through both Psalm 23 and the book of Revelation, where we will experience both Christ’s 40-day journey to the crucifixion, as well as the promises of the heavenly kingdom that we hear in John’s apocalyptic account.

Week 3 - The Tree of Life

Repentance is the focus of Week 3. The vision of Jesus instructs John to send a letter to each of the seven churches of Asia. In his first letter to the church of Ephesus, he sees the good works and the faithfulness of the people, but also points out that they have strayed from the path. He instructs the people of Ephesus to remember from where they have fallen and to repent, to live as they had been.

According to Luke 13, Jesus’ words are a foreshadowing of this guidance. We hear two brief mentions of tragedies where many lives were lost; first, a massacre led by Pilate, and second, the collapse of a tower. It is falsely assumed that bad things happen because the people they happen to are also bad. The wrath of God doesn’t come upon bad people; rather, it comes upon sinners, which is all of us. This is a core tenet of our Lutheran faith, we receive salvation of God’s grace through our faith. Repentance accompanies this, as we confess our sins and receive absolution regularly on our faith journeys. We hear a similar message in this week’s epistle, where we are reminded in Philippians 3:17 that we should keep our eyes on those who walk according to Jesus’ example.

Interestingly, these two passages also share in common the story of a tree. The fruitless fig tree, set to be cut down after bearing no fruit for three years, was instead saved by the vinedresser who asked for one more year to fertilize it. Unless a tree bears fruit (ie. “repents”), it is doomed for destruction. A repentant tree is a fruitful one, and becomes as the tree of life which is in the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7).

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS VIDEO

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “God of Grace and God of Glory” *Hymn 850*
(Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

**God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow’r;
Crown Your ancient Church’s story; Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.**

**Cure Your children’s warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal, Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore, Serving You whom we adore.**

***THE INVOCATION, OPENING LITANY AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.

People: **But Lord, we are consumed with wanting more.**

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He refreshes my soul.

People: **But Lord, we allow our souls to be drained of Your life-giving water.**

Pastor: He guides me along the right paths for His name’s sake.

People: **But Lord, we often stray from Your path to follow our own.**

Pastor: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.

People: **But Lord, we are afraid, and struggle to find our way.**

Pastor: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

People: **But Lord, we don't always find our seat, forgive us and guide us on the paths of Your righteousness.**

Pastor: Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

People: **Forgive us Lord, and lead us into Your heavenly kingdom.**

Pastor: In our darkest valleys we need not fear. The Lord is with us, He shelters us in His loving arms where no harm will come to us. God will wipe every tear from our eyes. The Lamb of God has taken away the sins of the world, and one day we will be reunited with him in everlasting peace.

People: **Amen.**

***THEME SONG** "As Your Spirit in the Desert" (v. 2) *Susan Palo Cherwien*

As your fire and cloudy pillar Israel's tribes to Canaan led,
may your presence be our comfort, may your manna be our bread.
Let us cross into the wilderness with God's manna as our bread.

THE FIRST READING

Revelation 2:2-5, 7

²“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you

repent...⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

THE ANTHEM

"Seed That in Earth Is Dying"
(Grace Chorale)

arr. Bradley Ellingboe

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." ⁶And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone

this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

[10:45] CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

*SERMON HYMN

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

Hymn 691

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven’s love and joy and peace.**

THE SERMON

“A Fruit-Bearing Tree”

Luke 13:1-9

*PROFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

***WORDS OF PREPARATION**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Hymn 577

**Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend
And righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world’s deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.**

**So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.**

"Beautiful Savior"

Hymn 537

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Hymn 722

**Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.**

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*THE BENEDICTION *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

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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.

People: Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

Hymn 718

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe To our home we go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us, Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

arr. J. Bert Carlson

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

The Preacher	The Rev. Brendon T. Moore
The Organist	Nick Klemetson
The Communion Deacons	Vickie Ryan, Jan Struck
The Lector	Jan Struck
The Usher/Greeter Team	Linda Davy, Jim Campbell

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

The Preacher	The Rev. Brendon T. Moore
The Celebrant/Liturgist	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
The Organist	Nick Klemetson
The Elder on Duty	Jennifer Smith
The Communion Deacons	Ron Booth, Dr. Terry Hostler, Dan Mueller
The Lectors	Richard Schumacher, Peggy Jo Griffin
The Robing Leader	Leslie Ladner
The Crucifer	Wilhelmina Ullrich
The Acolytes	Maxwell Ladner, Sylvia Ullrich
The Welcome Team Greeter	Sally Anderson
At the Welcome Center	Janice Graydon
The Welcome Team Ushers	Steve Griffith, Carl Rod

CREDITS

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