



## Lent Worship Service

### LENTEN MIDWEEK 5

*Living Among the Bible's Trees:  
Tree of the Lord's Planting*

**MARCH 25, 2020**

#### AS WE GATHER

The trees of the Bible help us realize why we need a Savior, how God provided a Savior for us in the person of Jesus Christ, and how the saved lives of repentant believers look. Today we consider how God brings low the haughty and raises up the humble and repentant. Our Lord Jesus is like a sprig from the top of a cedar, "planted" by God (and risen) to become a new, glorious tree. Though those who rely on Him are seemingly insignificant, like a mustard seed, they grow as the Church to give shelter to all people who flock to our Lord and His gracious mercy.

#### ✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

*(Latin: In the Name of Jesus)*

#### PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*You are invited to spend this pre-service time in prayer and meditation, reflecting on God's love for you, especially in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to live, suffer, die, rise, and ascend for you. Consider praying this prayer, or one like it: "O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His Name. Amen!" We're glad you're here!!*

#### LENTEN HYMN-SING

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

LSB 437 Stanzas 1, 4, 5

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"

LSB 439 Stanzas 1, 3, 15

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

LSB 440 Stanzas 1, 5, 6

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Ruth 2:4,2 Thessalonians 3:16*

## INVOCATION

*John 7:37-38*

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 1:1-3; 96:12-13; Isaiah 61:1, 3*

Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD.  
**He is like a tree planted by streams of water.**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;  
**that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD.**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,  
**for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*1 John 1:8-9*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*As you are able, you are invited to kneel in prayer.  
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## VERSE OF CONFESSION ~ "I Lay My Sins on Jesus" LSB 606, Stanza 1

**I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus  
To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious  
Till not a spot remains.**

## ABSOLUTION OF SINS

*John 20:19-23, Matthew 16:19*

Almighty God has been merciful to you and through the merit of the most holy suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, His beloved Son, He forgives you all your sins; and I, as an ordained servant of the Christian Church, proclaim to all you who truly repent and who through faith place your trust and minds on the merit of Jesus Christ and who order your lives after the commands

and will of God, the forgiveness of sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen!**

On the contrary, however, I say to any impenitent and unbelieving, according to God's Word and in His Name, that God has held your sin against you and this certainly is punished.

**Amen.**

*Braunschweig-Wolfenbuettel, 1569, authorized by Martin Chemnitz and Jakob Andreae*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.

**Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience;**

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** ~ *Ezekiel 17:11–24* (God tells the prophet that the Lord will start the nation anew, like taking a sprig from a cedar to plant a new tree.)

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** ~ *Mark 4:30–32* (The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.)

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERIES HYMN** ~ "Among the Bible's Trees" Tune: *LSB 595*

**Among the Bible's trees we live.  
How true they grow, as well they should.  
From them may we this Lententide  
Learn how our Lord died for our good.**

**A stump alone from Jesse's tree  
Decried all Israel's wandering.  
Yet God the Lord looked on in love  
And promised that a Branch would spring.**

**Though burdened we with sinfulness,  
By David's Son our battle's done.  
Through Baptism, grafted to that tree,  
In Christ our dreadful warfare's won.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
Whose body hung on Calv'ry's Tree,  
O living Word, Your sacrifice  
Pardon proclaims eternally.**

## **SERMON**

*It is good for children to be in worship! If, however, they are sad today and begin to distract other worshippers, please comfort them outside the sanctuary. The service is broadcast into the Welcome Center and displayed on the monitor. A nursery is available in the lower level, Room 104, where the service is also live-streamed. Thank you.*

[OBJ]

## **CONFESSION 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.**

## **OFFERINGS / HYMN ~ "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" LSB 691 (Tune: LSB 427)**

*You are encouraged to worship the Lord with your Offering by donating online at [PeaceWaverly.Org](http://PeaceWaverly.Org), scrolling down and clicking on the "Donate" button. If you have questions or trouble, contact [office@peacewaverly.org](mailto:office@peacewaverly.org) or 402.786.2345*

**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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, and people everywhere in their various needs.

For everyone weighed down by their bondage to sin and an inability to stop sinning by thought, word, and deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, open their ears to hear the Gospel anew; free them to live before You in Your kingdom.**

For everyone who has fallen prey to society's distorted morality, let us pray to the Lord.

**For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, surround them with faithful and caring members of the Body of Christ; call them back in repentance and hope.**

For those who keep the peace at home or are deployed abroad, for those who provide care and guidance in relationships, finances, and health, and for those who respond to natural disasters, this pandemic, and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

**For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, accompany them with Your Holy Spirit; protect them from harm, and give them wisdom in all circumstances.**

For ourselves and the Church around the world as we seek to produce true spiritual fruit, let us pray to the Lord.

**For the sake of Christ's sacrifice on the tree of the cross, heavenly Father, assure us that we are Your pleasant planting; forgive our errors, and send us to serve in faithfulness and love.**

These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## EVENING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father,

through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**BENEDICAMUS** (“beh-neh-DEE-kah-moos” - Latin, *Let Us Bless the Lord.*)

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**BENEDICTION** (Latin, *to bless*)

The blessing of God Almighty—who created you, forgave all your sins, and strengthens you for service in His kingdom—be upon you + now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, and...  
**Serve the Lord!**

**CLOSING HYMN** ~ “O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day”

LSB 882 (Tune: LSB 805), Stanzas 1-4, 7

**O Christ, who art the light and day,  
Thou drivest night and gloom away;  
O Light of Light, whose Word doth show  
The light of heav'n to us below.**

**All-holy Lord, in humble prayer  
We ask tonight Thy watchful care.  
O grant us calm repose in Thee,  
A quiet night, from perils free.**

**Asleep though wearied eyes may be,  
Still keep the heart awake to Thee;  
Let Thy right hand outstretched above  
Guard those who serve the Lord they love.**

*a capella*

**All praise to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,  
Whom with the Spirit we adore  
Forever and forevermore. Amen!**

**Soli Deo Gloria!**

**SILENCE** ~ *In keeping with the contemplative nature of the Lenten season, you are invited to spend a moment in silence.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

LSB 437 Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed, sts 1, 4, 5Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748Public Domain

LSB 439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken, sts 1, 3, 15Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78Public DomainLSB 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now, sts 1, 5, 6Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923Public DomainLSB 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus st 1Text: Horatio Bonar, 1808-89Public DomainAmong the Bible's TreesText: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.LSB 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's SowingText: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926© 1984 Hope Publishing. All rights reserved.OneLicense.net License #A-721581LSB 882 O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day. Sts 1-4, 7  
Text: Latin, c. 6<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. William J. Copeland, 1804-85Public Domain

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