



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

April 1, 2020

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LENTEN MIDWEEK 6

**LIVING AMONG THE BIBLE’S TREES:
GOOD TREES BEARING GOOD FRUIT,
BAD TREES BEARING BAD FRUIT**

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 we are like the fruitless trees mentioned throughout the Bible. They cannot bear good fruit, for they are bad trees. Without God’s re-creating us, we are no better than the “brood of vipers” who opposed our Lord. But the Word of God, our new birth in Holy Baptism, and the forgiveness coming in the Sacrament of the Altar changes us to be good trees. And thus we are able to produce the good fruit of the Spirit.

+ PREPARATION +

691 FRUITFUL TREES, THE SPIRIT’S SOWING

sts. 1, 4

1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till

and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,

and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,

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(Stand)

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

People **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 1:1–3; 96:12–13; Isaiah 61:1, 3

Pastor Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord.

People **He is like a tree planted by streams of water.**

Pastor The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has
anointed me to bring good news to the poor; . . .

People **that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting
of the Lord.**

Pastor Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the
Lord,

People **for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1, 3

Pastor Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People **Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and
cannot free ourselves. We have “eaten forbidden fruit” in our
thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual
fruit in keeping with the new life You have won for us. For
the sake of Jesus’ sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us
Your forgiveness. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let Your
face shine, that we may be saved! Amen.**

Pastor After His triumph over Satan’s temptations in the wilderness, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth and announced that the prophecy of Isaiah was being fulfilled in Him. The prophet had written, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me . . . to grant to those who mourn in Zion . . . a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13

Pastor Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights!

Praise Him, all His angels;
praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you shining stars!

Praise Him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Pastor Let them praise the name of the Lord!

People For He commanded and they were created.

Pastor And He established them forever and ever;

People He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling His word!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

People **Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

Pastor He has raised up a horn for His people,
People **praise for all His saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to Him.
Praise the Lord!**

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

(Sit)

FIRST READING

Galatians 5:1, 13–25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Leader O Lord, have mercy on us.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Matthew 7:15–20

¹⁵“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Leader O Lord, have mercy on us.

People **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

Isaiah 11:1, 10; 1 Peter 2:24

Pastor There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

People **Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

Pastor In that day the root of Jesse,
who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of Him shall the nations inquire,
and His resting place shall be glorious.

People **Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

Pastor There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

People **Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

Congregation 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 T everlasting. Amen.

(Sit)

SERMON

AMONG THE BIBLE'S TREES

We sing Stanzas 2 & 3



1 A - mong the Bi - ble's trees we live. How true they
2 The fruit we bear be - trays our sin: Dis - eased with-
3 But by God's pow'r we are re-newed, With fruit to
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, God's on - ly Son, Whose bod - y



grow, as well they should. From them may
in, we can - not love. We use our
share in ev - 'ry need And in sweet
hung on Cal - v'ry's tree, O liv - ing



we this Len - ten - tide Learn how our
free - dom as ex - cuse And heed not
joy, peace, faith - ful - ness A har - vest
Word, Your sac - ri - fice Par - don pro -



Lord died for our good.
prompt - ing from a - bove.
raise to God in - deed.
claims e - ter - nal - ly.

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OFFERING

Please send your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
330 Sunset Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503

OR
give through our website:
<https://stlukesmanhattan.org/about-us/financial-support/>

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 96:8–9

Pastor Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;
People **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

Pastor Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
People **tremble before Him, all the earth!**

786 LORD OF ALL GOOD

sts. 1–2



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand Your ways;



Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great de - sign;



To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
Hearts with the flame of Your own love a - blaze—



That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.
Thus for Your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.

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(Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the Church here and around the world, and for 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.

People 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.

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

People 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.

Pastor 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 and crises of various sorts, let us pray to the Lord.

People 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.

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

People 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.

Pastor 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.

People **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

All **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.**

454 SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE sts. 1-2



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing
2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the
Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.

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COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

Pastor Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness

People mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul;

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

People Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor Let us pray.
O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which
the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your
commandments

People **and also that we, being defended from the fear of our
enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

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

People **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor 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.

People **Amen.**

693 O HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT US GRACE

sts. 1, 3



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our Lord and Sav - ior
3 And when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter hour im - pend - ing,



In faith and fer - vent love em - brace And tru - ly serve Him ev - er.
Then may Thy work in us be - gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing,



The hour of death can - not bring loss When we are shel - tered
Un - til we glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our



by the cross That can - celed our trans - gres - sions.
Sav - ior's hand, The crown of life ob - tain - ing.

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DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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