

## LENTEN MIDWEEK 4

Noon and 7 pm

March 18, 2020

### Living among the Bible's Trees:

Jesse's Tree



#### 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 Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faith with God, but succeeding generations wandered away, and God let other nations' armies defeat them until only a veritable stump remained. But by the grace of God, from that stump a Branch would come, our Lord Jesus,

fulfilling all the ancient promises. From Him springs new, eternal life.

#### WELCOME

### 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
- 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
- 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

#### 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.**

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 6:1–13* (In a vision, Isaiah sees the heavenly throne and hears the promise about the remaining stump of the royal family tree.)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:  
 "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"  
<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"  
<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."  
 Isaiah's Commission from the Lord  
<sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." <sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go, and say to this people:  
 "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'  
<sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."  
<sup>11</sup> Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:  
 "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste,  
<sup>12</sup> and the Lord removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.  
<sup>13</sup> And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled."  
 The holy seed is its stump.

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**    *Isaiah 10:33–11:16* (The Branch, on whom will rest the Holy Spirit, shall usher in a peaceable kingdom.)

<sup>33</sup> Behold, the Lord God of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low.

<sup>34</sup> He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

**11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

<sup>12</sup> He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

<sup>13</sup> The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

<sup>14</sup> But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.

<sup>15</sup> And the Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals.

<sup>16</sup> And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

Reader: 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.**

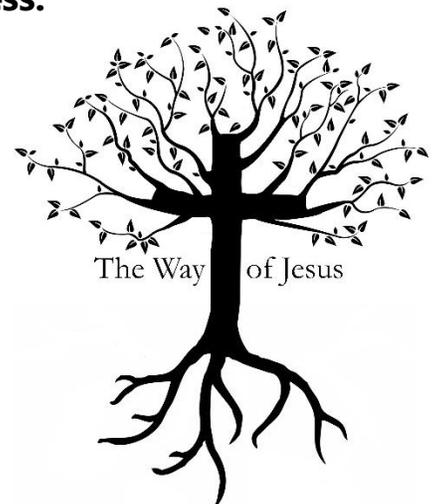
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**SERMON** Rev. James Frusti – St. Paul, Northville



## SERIES HYMN Among the Bible's Trees We Live



1 A - mong the Bi - ble's trees we live. How true they  
 2 A - mid the des - ert's bar - ren - ness Stood Mam-re's  
 3 God's judg - ment we de - serve in - deed, Like sin - ful  
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, God's on - ly Son, Whose bod - y



grow, as well they should. From them may we this Len - ten -  
 oaks, so firm and tall. And A - bram there re - ceived the  
 cit - ies on the plain. But from old Sar - ah was to  
 hung on Cal - v'ry's tree, O liv - ing Word, Your sac - ri -



tide Learn how our Lord died for our good.  
 Lord, Who prom - ised grace for one and all.  
 come Our Sav - ior, Christ, in us to reign.  
 fice Par - don pro - claims e - ter - nal - ly.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** 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.

**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 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.

**OFFERINGS** *Our offerings at the circuit **noon services** will support the ministry of Another Way Pregnancy Center*

**We invite you to fill out our Friendship Card** during the offering which is found on the back of the pew. Please pass your card to the center aisle and leave in pew.

## THE 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.**

## 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.

**CLOSING HYMN 920 Forth in the Pace of Christ We Go**

1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
 2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
 4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;



Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
 King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;  
 Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
 With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,  
 Christ's truth in love that we may be



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.  
 Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
 Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

**Where We Serve 7 pm**

**Preacher** Pastor Jim Frusti

**Officiant** Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

**Minister of Music** Paul Ventimiglia

**Elder** Will Hoffmeier

**Ushers** Mark Baumgarten Craig Miller