

## LENTEN MIDWEEK 5

Noon and 7 pm

March 25, 2020

### Living among the Bible's Trees:

Tree of the Lord's Planting



### 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.

### WELCOME

#### 540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

- 1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,  
Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father,  
Perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,  
Light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence,  
Grant us grace to heed Your call.
- 2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,  
Food for body, food for soul;  
Christ, the manna daily given,  
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.

Feed us with the food of heaven,  
Foretaste of the feast to be;  
Quench our thirst with living water  
Springing up eternally.

- 3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant  
From the stump of Jesse's tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches  
To bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior;  
Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard  
Till eternal life we gain.

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

<sup>11</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to me:

<sup>12</sup> "Say to this rebellious people, 'Do you not know what these things mean?' Say to them: 'The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles, bringing them back with him to Babylon. <sup>13</sup> Then he took a member of the royal family and made a treaty with him, putting him under oath. He also carried away the leading men of the land, <sup>14</sup> so that the kingdom would be brought low, unable to rise again, surviving only by keeping his treaty. <sup>15</sup> But the king rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt to get horses and a large army. Will he succeed? Will he who does such things escape? Will he break the treaty and yet escape?'

<sup>16</sup> "'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, he shall die in Babylon, in the land of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose treaty he broke. <sup>17</sup> Pharaoh with his mighty army and great horde will be of no help to him in war, when ramps are built and siege works erected to destroy many lives. <sup>18</sup> He despised the oath by breaking the covenant. Because he had given his hand in pledge and yet did all these things, he shall not escape.

<sup>19</sup> "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: As surely as I live, I will repay him for despising my oath and breaking my covenant. <sup>20</sup> I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgment on him there because he was unfaithful to me. <sup>21</sup> All his choice troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to the winds. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken.

<sup>22</sup> "'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup> On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. <sup>24</sup> All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

"'I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.'"

Reader: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

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.**

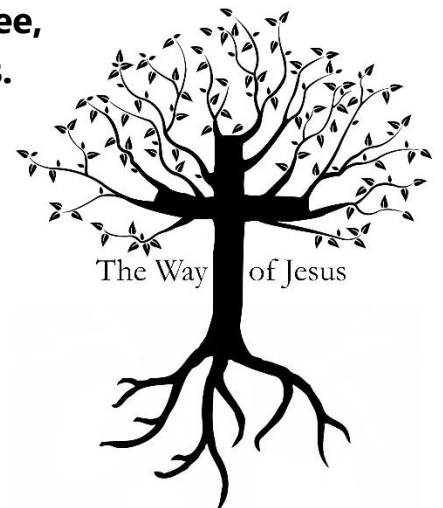
Pastor:    In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—  
of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious.

**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.**

**SERMON** Rev. Dean Davenport – Christ Our Savior, Livonia



## 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.**

## 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.**

## CLOSING HYMN 595 O Blessed Spring



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
 2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
 3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.