



Living among the Bible's Trees: Jesse's Tree

Lent Midweek 4

March 18, 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 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.

Prelude: *Debi Prehn, Organist*

+ PREPARATION +

Hymn "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

LSB 342



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.

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 1:1–3; 96:12–13; Isaiah 61:1, 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1, 3

P Let us confess our sins to God our heavenly Father.

C **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.**

P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 80:8–19; antiphon: v. 19

P Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P You brought a vine out of Egypt;
C **You drove out the nations and planted it.**

P You cleared the ground for it;
C **it took deep root and filled the land.**

P The mountains were covered with its shade,
C **the mighty cedars with its branches.**

P It sent out its branches to the sea
C **and its shoots to the River.**

P Why then have You broken down its walls,
C **so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

P The boar from the forest ravages it,
C **and all that move in the field feed on it.**

P Turn again, O God of hosts!
C **Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,**

P the stock that Your right hand planted,
C **and for the son whom You made strong for Yourself.**

P They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
C **may they perish at the rebuke of Your face!**

P But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,
C **the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**

P Then we shall not turn back from You;
C **give us life, and we will call upon Your name!**

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Passion

If the congregation is reading through the Passion, a portion of it may be read here.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

First Reading

Isaiah 6:1–13

¹In 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. ²Above 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. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And 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!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” ⁹And he said, “Go, and say to this people:

“Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
keep on seeing, but do not perceive.”

¹⁰Make 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.”

¹¹Then 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,
¹²and the LORD removes people far away,
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.
¹³And 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Isaiah 10:33—11:16

³³Behold, 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.
³⁴He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe,
and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
²And 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.
³And 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,
⁴but 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.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
⁶The 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.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
⁹They 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.

¹⁰In 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.

¹¹In 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.

¹²He 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.

¹³The 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.

¹⁴But 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.

¹⁵And 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.

¹⁶And 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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

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

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

C **Christ Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,**

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

P 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.

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

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

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

Sermon

Series Hymn

Reproducible Congregational Page

Among the Bible's Trees We Live

James Pierce

O W A L Y W A L Y
English



1 A - mong the Bi - ble's trees we live. How true they
2 A stump a - lone from Jes - se's tree De - cried all
3 Though bur - dened we with sin - ful - ness, By Da - vid's
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 -
Is - rael's wan - der - ing. Yet God the Lord looked on in
Son our bat - tle's done. Through Bap - tism, graft - ed to that
hung on Cal - v'ry's tree, O liv - ing Word, Your sac - ri -

tide Learn how our Lord died for our good.
love And prom - ised that a Branch would spring.
tree, In Christ our dread - ful war - fare's won.
fice Par - don pro - claims e - ter - nal - ly.

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Offering

Psalm 96:8-9

- P Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;
- C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

- P Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
- C **tremble before Him, all the earth!**

Hymn "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

LSB 691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
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,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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Prayer of the Church

P 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.

C **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.**

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

C **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.**

P 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.

C **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.**

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

- C 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.
- P 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.
- C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- C 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.

Hymn "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle"

LSB 454



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
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the
 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
 and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the
 Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of
 Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He
 None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the
 Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.
 world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

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Collect from Sunday

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy,

C **be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;**

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

C **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

P 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

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

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

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go"

LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
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;
This world of time to con - se - crate,
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
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's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show
That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love to all mankind.

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