

March 14, 2018

Midweek of Lent 4: Vespers

## Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross

God created man, and man began his journey in the Garden of Eden. In the midst of that garden were two trees more beautiful than the rest. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life—what joy for man to come to these trees and worship, giving thanks to God for His good and gracious gifts. But one day there was an unwelcome visitor to their worship service—Satan. He had things to say, wise things to share with man. They were lies, but man followed. Sin came, and Adam and Eve were exiled from the garden and from the tree of life. How they longed to return to the garden and the beautiful tree, and God promised that He would lead the way. Jesus Christ leads us from one garden to the next and from one tree to the tree of life in the courts of heaven. It was a hard and treacherous journey for our Leader, and it required a stop at another tree, the cross. But the evil Satan, who used a tree to bring sin into world, was conquered by another tree, and our sin was washed away.

P O Lord, open my lips,  
 C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
 P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
 C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**  
 C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

+ Psalmody +

PSALM

*Psalm 25*

P To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
 C **O my God, in You I trust; let me not be  
 put to shame; let not my enemies exult  
 over me.**  
 P Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put  
 to shame; they shall be ashamed who are  
 wantonly treacherous.  
 C **Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;  
 teach me Your paths.**  
 P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for  
 You are the God of my salvation; for You I  
 wait all the day long.  
 C **Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your  
 steadfast love, for they have been from of  
 old.**  
 P Remember not the sins of my youth or my  
 transgressions; according to Your steadfast  
 love remember me, for the sake of Your  
 goodness, O Lord!  
 C **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore  
 He instructs sinners in the way.**  
 P He leads the humble in what is right, and  
 teaches the humble his way.  
 C **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast  
 love and faithfulness, for those who keep  
 His covenant and His testimonies.**  
 P For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my  
 guilt, for it is great.

C **Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him  
 will He instruct in the way that He should  
 choose.**  
 P His soul shall abide in well-being, and his  
 offspring shall inherit the land.  
 C **The friendship of the Lord is for those  
 who fear Him, and He makes known to  
 them His covenant.**  
 P My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He  
 will pluck my feet out of the net.  
 C **Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I  
 am lonely and afflicted.**  
 P The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
 bring me out of my distresses.  
 C **Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
 and forgive all my sins.**  
 P Consider how many are my foes, and with  
 what violent hatred they hate me.  
 C **Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me  
 not be put to shame, for I take refuge in  
 You.**  
 P May integrity and uprightness preserve  
 me, for I wait for You.  
 C **Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his  
 troubles.**  
 C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and  
 to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the  
 beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
 Amen.**

OFFICE HYMN *At The Cross (Love Ran Red)*

1. **There's a place**  
**Where mercy reigns and never dies**  
**There's a place**  
**Where streams of grace flow deep and wide**  
**Where all the love I've ever found**  
**Comes like a flood comes flowing down**

*Chorus*     **At the cross at the cross**  
**I surrender my life**  
**I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You**  
**Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white**  
**I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)**

2. **There's a place**  
**Where sin and shame are powerless**  
**Where my heart**  
**Has peace with God and forgiveness**  
**Where all the love I've ever found**  
**Comes like a flood comes flowing down**

*Bridge*     **Here my hope is found**  
**Here on holy ground**  
**Here I bow down here I bow down**  
**Here arms open wide**  
**Here You saved my life**  
**Here I bow down here I bow (down)**

+ Readings +

OLD TESTAMENT

<sup>2:15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

<sup>3:22</sup> Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him

*Genesis 2:15; 3:22–24*

out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

L     O Lord, have mercy on us.

C     **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. <sup>23</sup> When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.

HOLY GOSPEL

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted

*1 Peter 2:21–25*

<sup>24</sup> He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

*John 3:14–15*

up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

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

RESPONSORY for LENT

*LSB, p. 231*

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.  
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**  
P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.  
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**  
P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.  
C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON “Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross”

+ Canticle +

HYMN *Man of Sorrows*

1. **Man of sorrows, Lamb of God; By His own betrayed  
The sin of man and wrath of God; Has been on Jesus laid**
2. **Silent as He stood accused; Beaten, mocked, and scorned  
Bowling to the Father's will; he took a crown of thorns**

*Chorus:* **Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation;  
Where Your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out Lord have mercy;  
Praise and honor unto Thee**

3. **Sent of heaven, God's own Son; To purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones; Who nailed Him to that tree** *Chorus*

*Bridge:* **Now my debt is paid  
It is paid in full  
By the precious blood  
That my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin  
Has no hold on me  
Whom the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed**

4. **See the stone is rolled away; Behold the empty tomb**  
**Lord have mercy, God be praised; He's risen from the grave** *Chorus*

MAGNIFICAT

*LSB, p. 231*

**C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**

**M** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

**W** *For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.*

**M** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

**W** *and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.*

**M** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**W** *He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.*

**M** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

**W** *He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.*

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

+ Prayer +

KYRIE

*LSB, p. 233*

**C Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.  
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P We praise You, our Father in heaven, that Your Son, Jesus Christ, accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, that we may lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT

P Gracious Creator, when You look for us, we hide because all of creation is infected with the parasite of sin. Have mercy on us. We thank You that You have covered us with Christ in Baptism instead of flimsy leaves. Therefore, give us hope to share in the better leaves of the tree of life which are for the healing of the nations, that we may always live before You as You created us without sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P 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 and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

HYMN *Trading My Sorrows*

*Chorus:* I'm trading my sorrows; I'm trading my shame.  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.  
I'm trading my sickness; I'm trading my pain  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

*Bridge:* Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord.  
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord.  
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes Lord. Amen.

*Verse:* I am pressed but not crushed, persecuted, not abandoned,  
struck down, but not destroyed. I am blessed beyond the curse,  
for His promise will endure, that His joy's gonna be my strength.  
Though the sorrow may last for the night, His joy comes with the morning.

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## Dinner Wednesdays @

5:30pm

Come have dinner with your church family. Free-will donations to help cover the costs are appreciated.

February 21 – Mexican

February 28 – Italian

March 7 - German

March 14 - Homemade Soup & Sandwiches

March 21 - Chili & Baked Potato Bar (by the Youth)

See the bulletin board to sign up to bring food and get some ideas on what to bring. Building will be unlocked at 4:30pm. Please have your food ready to serve at 5:30pm. Money to help cover the cost will be available from the church office.

## Worship Wednesdays @ 6:30pm Fellowship Hall

Pastor Aaron will lead us through a study and sermon series, "Return From Exile," as we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week and Easter. You'll get to choose all the hymns we sing.

## Seder Tasting Meal - Maundy Thursday March 29 @ 6:30pm

Experience with us a taste of the traditional Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover, performed by a community or by multiple generations of a family, involving a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Holy Communion will be included.

## Good Friday Worship March 30 @ 7:00pm