
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Order of Worship – Second Wednesday in Lent
March 4, 2020
7:00 PM

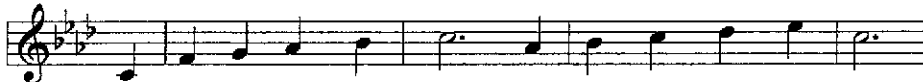
LIVING AMONG THE BIBLE'S TREES

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 the great trees of Mamre, under which the Lord graciously visited Abraham, though nearby were Sodom and Gomorrah, which God planned to destroy, as well as the cave in which Abraham would bury Sarah. In our sinful condition, we deserve the cities' punishment. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus, descended from Abraham and Sarah, we live in an oasis of life, as it were, amid the desert of this sin-ridden world.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC *"Meditation on Wondrous Love"* **by David Paxton**

[♯Means please stand; ♪Means please be seated]

♯**OPENING HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise* **LSB 798**



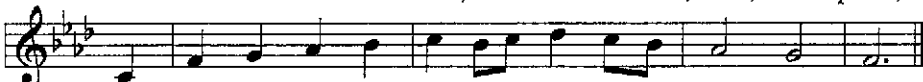
1 The God of A - br'ham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2 The God of A - br'ham praise, At whose su - preme com - mand



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
And Him my on - ly por - tion make, My shield and tow'r.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5. Though nature's strength decay,
And earth and hell withstand,
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way
At His command.
The wat'ry deep I pass,
With Jesus in my view,
And through the howling wilderness
My way pursue.</p> | <p>6. The goodly land I see,
With peace and plenty blest:
A land of sacred liberty
And endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
And oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow
With mercy crowned.</p> |
|---|---|

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INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the + 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 & FORGIVENESS

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✠PASSION

Part 1: The Lord’s Supper

(the reading of the Passion Part 1)

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

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:1–10; 23:1-2, 10–20

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it

quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ...

Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ² And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ...

¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹ "No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead." ¹² Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³ And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there." ¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ "My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead." ¹⁶ Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over ¹⁸ to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

P *O Lord, have mercy on us.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:2; 22:1-2

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

P *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.**

(continued)

- 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.**

SERIES HYMN OF THE DAY

Among the Bible's Trees

1 A - mong the Bi - ble's trees we live. How true they
grow, as well they should. From them may we this Len-ten -
tide Learn how our Lord died for our good.

2. **Amid the desert's barrenness
Stood Mamre's oaks, so firm and tall.
And Abram there received the Lord.
Who promised grace for one and all.**
3. **God's judgment we deserve indeed,
Like sinful cities on the plain.
But from old Sarah was to come
Our Savior, Christ, in us to reign.**
4. **Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Whose body hung on Calv'ry's tree,
O living Word, Your sacrifice
Pardon proclaims eternally.**

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SERMON

GREAT TREES OF MAMRE NEAR THE MACHPELAH

Pastor Roger Wohletz, Christ Lutheran Church

OFFERTORY

"The God of Abraham Praise"

by David von Kampen

OFFERING

(☪ Response after offering)

- 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!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *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.*
- 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

- P** *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*
- 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.**

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

- P** *Let us pray.*

All: **O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

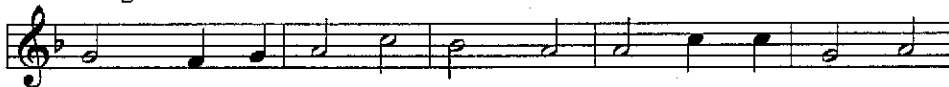
- P** *The blessing of God Almighty—who created you, forgave all your sins, and strengthens you for service in His kingdom—be upon you now and forever.* **C** **Amen.**



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.

**5. My loved ones, rest securely,
 For God this night will surely
 From peril guard your heads.
 Sweet slumbers may He send you
 And bid His hosts attend you
 And through the night watch o'er your beds.**

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POSTLUDE

"The Day Thou Gavest"

by Jeffrey Blersch

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