
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Order of Worship – Third Wednesday in Lent
March 11, 2020
7:00 PM

LIVING AMONG THE BIBLE'S TREES
OAK AT OPHRAH

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 oak at Ophrah, which witnessed Gideon asking for signs to be sure that he was being visited by the angel of the Lord and that he was indeed to lead Israel. We, like Gideon, sin by seeking signs and testing the Lord; yet in His mercy, God forgives all who trust in Christ to be saved from sin, death, and Satan.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

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

♪ **OPENING HYMN**

O Christ, You Walked the Road

LSB 424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swer-ving love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 1:1-3; 96:12-13; Isaiah 61:1, 3

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**
- 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.” In His great mercy, God sent His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

PASSION

Part 2: Gethsemane

(the reading of the Passion Part 2)

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

FIRST LESSON

Judges 6:1, 11-27, 36-40

¹The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.

¹¹Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me. ¹⁸Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

¹⁹So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour

the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²²Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." ²³But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

²⁵That night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it ²⁶and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down." ²⁷So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.

³⁶Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, ³⁷behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." ³⁸And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

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

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 12:38–42

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴²The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

- 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.**
- 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. Beneath the Ophrah oak one day
 Came down the angel of the Lord,
 A charge to give to Gideon,
 Free Israel from Midian horde.
3. Under that oak he asked for signs
 As we are prone to test the Lord.
 But Jonah's three-day sign came true;
 From death Christ rose, proving His Word.
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

OAK AT OPHRAH

Pastor David Vanderhyde; University Hills Lutheran Church

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul, 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.

CLOSING HYMN

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

LSB 883



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
 3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
 4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bless - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
 I this day have done, That with the world, my -
 lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
 sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
 self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
 vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

5. When in the night I sleepless lie,
 My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
 Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
 No pow'rs of darkness me molest.
6. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this evening:

Acolyte..... University Hills
Altar Guild..... Karen Batt & Marcella Marshall
Elder on Duty..... University Hills
Greeter..... Pam Kurth
Organist / Music Director of University Hills..... Daniel Vanderhyde
Ushers *Phil Vandre, Naomi Kettner, Brian Albee, Tim Cueva, Rob Hatton
Worship Leader Pastor David Vanderhyde; University Hills
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