

*A man had a fig tree planted in
his vineyard; and he came
looking for fruit on it ...*

LUKE 13:6, NRSV



Third Sunday in Lent
10:45 a.m. Sunday Service
March 23, 2025

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
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Pastor Chris Waldvogel
Pastor Dan Bodin

Welcome! “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we would not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live,” (Ezek. 33:11). So the Scriptures have been “written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come,” (1 Cor. 10:11) that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ. He alone is faithful, the Rock who feeds us with His “spiritual food” and pours out His “spiritual drink” (1 Cor. 10:3–4).

+ Order of Service +

Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

700

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Versicles

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised!

P: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

C: let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

P: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C: He was bruised for our iniquities.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised!

Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

Page 1

P: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Introit *(Psalm 5:4-8; antiphon, Psalm 1:6)*

P: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**C: For You are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with You.**

P: The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
You hate all evildoers.

**C: You destroy those who speak lies;
The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

P: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

**C: Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.**

**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.**

P: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Hymn

“Rock of Ages”

761

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-20

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked one, you shall surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?’

“And you, son of man, say to your people, ‘The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.’

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual

food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

The Ten Commandments

C: You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or his maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The 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.

Children's Sermon

Hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace" 824

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather, and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Holy Spirit to grant holy desires, good counsels and just works that we may live in peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the homes in which our people dwell that all may celebrate and serve in the vocations God has given, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those in distress of mind, body or soul, for the sick and the dying, and all those who have requested our prayers, including _____, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: *(Other specific petitions)* Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, 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; 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 the Word

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

Blessing

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Hymn "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" 691