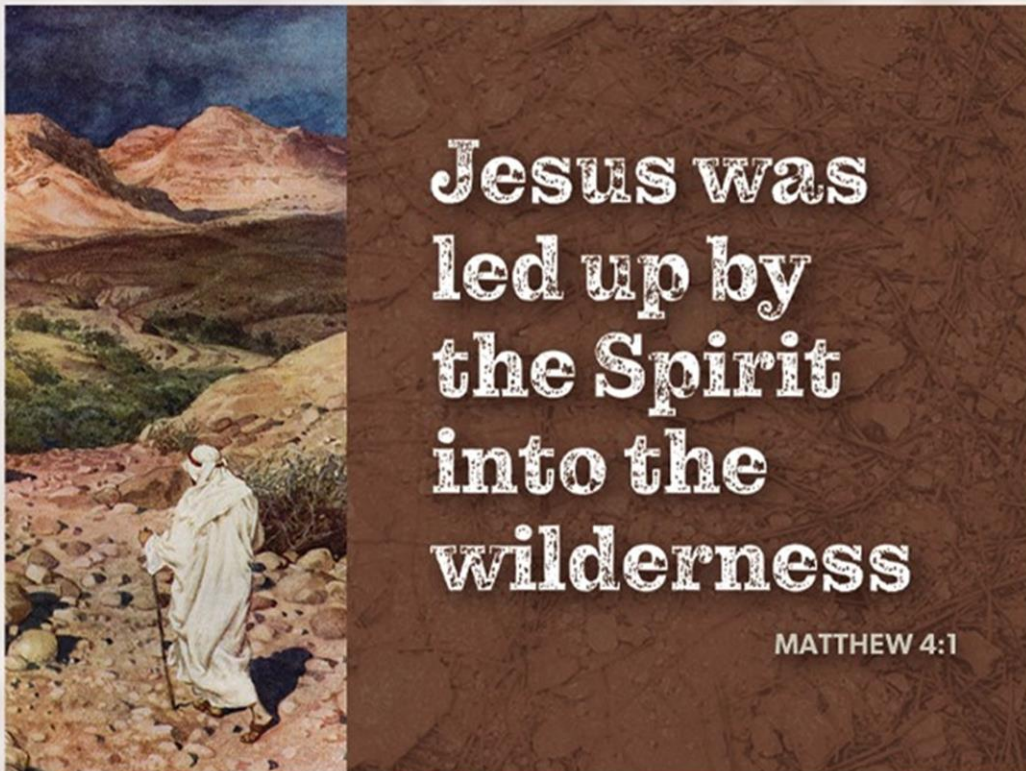


Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



February 26, 2023

GATHER

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Lenten Preface

Now Is the Time of Grace

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

† forgives you in Christ's name,

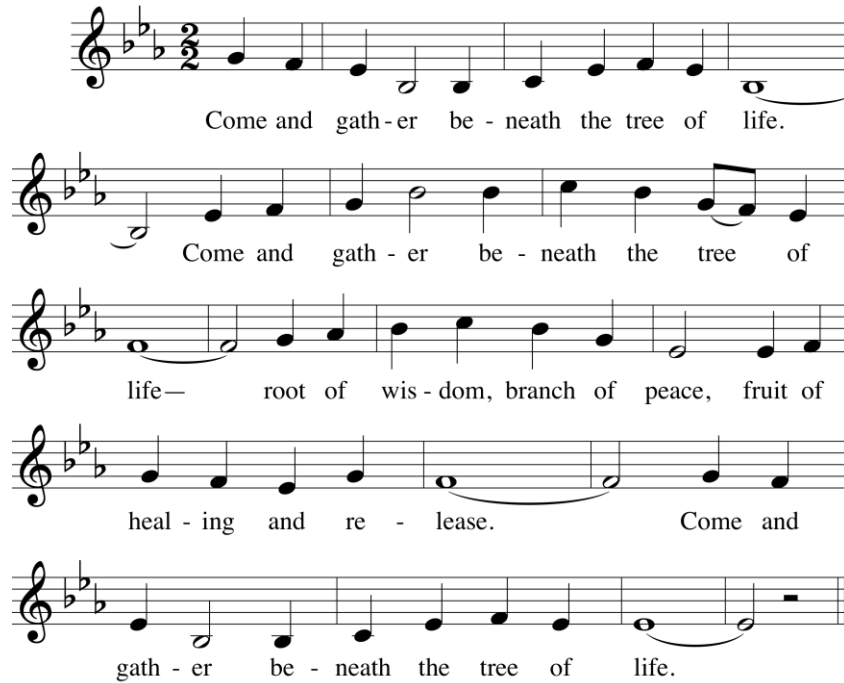
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Gathering Song

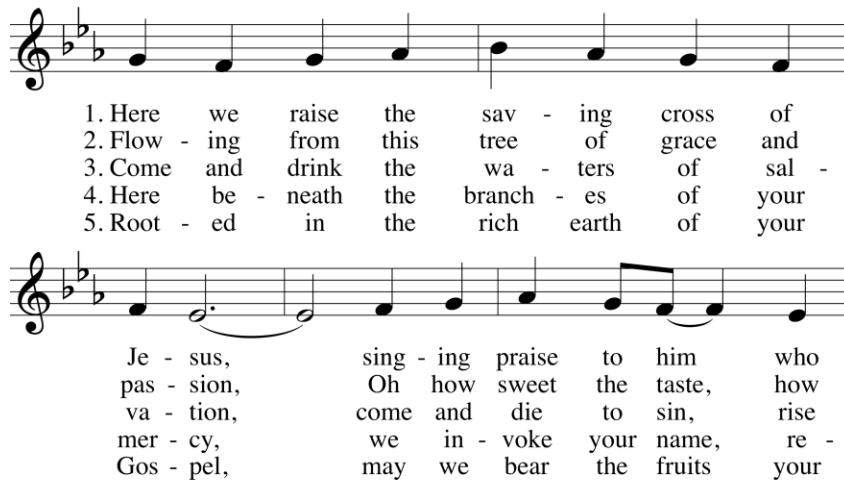
Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life (vs. 1, 2 & Lent 1)

Refrain



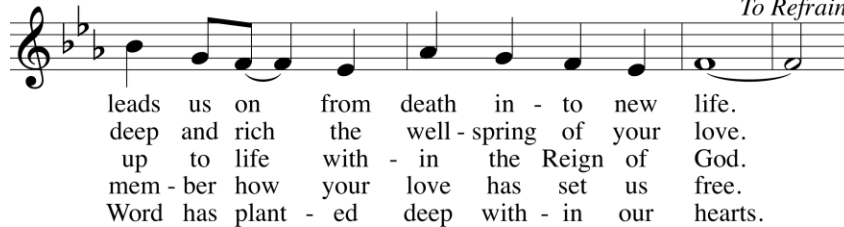
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your
5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your
Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -
Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your

To Refrain



leads us on from death in - to new life.
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.
up to life with - in the Reign of God.
mem - ber how your love has set us free.
Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. 1. For the 2. For your
 reign of God, and for peace through - out the
 peo - ple here who have come to give you
 world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the
 Lord: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord: Help, save, and de -
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.
 fend us, O God: A - men.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Repeat the refrain of Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life

Refrain

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Time

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

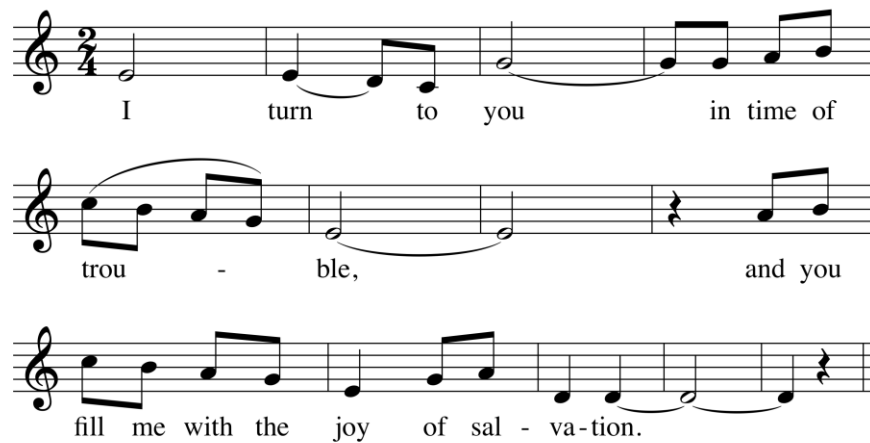
Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: Psalm 32



Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the New Testament

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse

We stand to "greet" the gospel.

Re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast
love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord

The "good news" of Jesus Christ

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Richard Rollefson

Song of Response

Out in the Wilderness

1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
2 Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
3 An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
4 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

when the Spir - it says, "Go," you can't say, "No."
though you try to be strong, it's been so long.
you are far . . . from home where wild things roam.
When you were . . . bap - tized, you re - a - lized

You lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;
He whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
There's dan - ger ev - 'ry - where but you're not a - lone;
you'd heard the voice of God from the o - p'ning skies:

driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.
tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.
an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.
"You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech
Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech

Affirmation of Faith

An ancient creedal expression of the teachings of the Christian faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer requests: Sid & Beryl Bennett; Elsa Brody; Steve & JoAnn Bennett; Dave Lonsway & Family; Matthew Moersdorf; Family of Ed Dresp; Family of Linda Estes

Prayers for our church family: Carolyn Voss; Carol & Donley Winger; Paul Woodring

The Peace & Announcements Birthdays & Anniversaries

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

We give thanks for God's gifts.

Let us pray:

O loving God,

We cry out for the hope and healing you offer.

Guide us to care for your creation;

make us your hands to feed the hungry;

and prepare us to receive the bread of life,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

A prayer recounting the story of God's love.

The Lord's Prayer

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

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.

Communion Song

I Am the Bread of Life

I am the Bread of Life

All who eat this Bread will never die

I am God's love revealed

I am broken that you might be healed

All who eat of this heavenly Bread

All who drink this cup of the covenant

You will live forever for I will raise you up

I am the Bread of Life

All who eat this Bread will never die

I am God's love revealed

I am broken that you might be healed

No one who comes to Me shall ever hunger again

No one who believes shall ever thirst

All that the Father draws shall come to Me

And I will give them rest

I am the Bread of Life

All who eat this Bread will never die

I am God's love revealed

I am broken that you might be healed

Blessing

Prayer

Compassionate God,

You have fed and renewed us in your holy meal.

Bless those who go forth from this assembly
bearing your word and sacrament.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be a hunger for justice,

our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer,

the song of humble and grateful hearts.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Song

Tree of Life



1. Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your
2. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum-bling
3. From the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion you have



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and
loved us as your own; stay with us through all temp-



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the
ta - tion, make us turn to you a - lone, make us



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
riv - er, you the sea.
turn to you a - lone.

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks to:

Greeter:

Usher:

Lector: Chuck Kilstrom

Communion Servers:

Coffee Server: Vicky Tway

Altar Guild: Pat Forrest

Musicians, Singers: Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen / Richard Rollefson / Matt Schultze / Ryan Reck / Phil Strauss / Talia Ortega / Janis Sexton / Carlyn Hinds

Flowers are sponsored by MaryAnn Jakes in celebration of all the February birthdays.

Arrangement prepared by Cal Poly Plant Shop.