

LENTEN MIDWEEK 2

March 12, 2025

HYMN *"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"* *LSB #437*

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalms 8*

Pastor: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.

People: **Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

Pastor: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

People: **what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?**

Pastor: Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

People: **You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

Pastor: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

People: **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

**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.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, for the joy set before Him, Your Son, Jesus, endured the suffering of the cross. In our suffering, O Lord, strengthen our faith that we may know Your companionship in our darkest hours; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Although the deep and grand texts of many of the hymns of the Lenten season have been used in the church for centuries, there are also new texts in other sections of the hymnal that highlight certain features of the Passion of our Lord in this holy season. One of those hymn texts is “The Tree of Life,” written in the 1990s by Pastor Stephen Starke. It contrasts the tree in the Garden of Eden—having fruit eaten in disobedience to God’s command by Eve and Adam—with the tree of the cross of Calvary, where Jesus overcame the power of Satan by His sacrificial death to pay the price of the sins of mankind. Both trees have power, and each has beauty as well. Both are central to the message of the Gospel.

One can expand their Lenten devotional life by meditating on hymn texts. “The tree of life with every good” is the type of text that invites prayerful reflection as it musically expresses the words of the Proper Preface for Holy Week that proclaim Jesus’ great victory over Satan: “that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome.”

HYMN *"The Tree of Life" LSB #561*

FIRST READING *Genesis 3:14–15*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan's attacks for us that You could crush the serpent's head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SECOND READING *Hebrews 2:11–15*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE *Romans 10:17*

Pastor: Faith comes from hearing,

People: **and hearing through the word of Christ.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 12:20–33*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: 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.
On 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.

Sit

HYMN *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB #657*

SERMON

Stand

HYMN *"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" LSB #422*

PASSION READING *John 18:1-14*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Pastor: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Let our cry come to You.

Pastor: Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

People: By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent's head for us.

Pastor: Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,

People: help us to find healing in His wounds

Pastor: and grant us eyes of faith

People: to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.

Pastor: Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

People: and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Pastor: until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in paradise

People: and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Pastor: Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

HYMN *"What Wondrous Love Is This" LSB #543*

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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