

Music Today

Mark Gould

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faithful to God, but succeeding generations wandered away, until only a stump remained. From that stump, a Branch would come: our Lord Jesus, who fulfills all ancient promises. Each week, we hear the story of several ancestors of Jesus - Each story showing God's plan of salvation and how He guided humanity to prepare for His coming. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the Middle Ages, and derives its name from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David, and from the family line of David, our Savior came. Today, come and see YOUR place in God's family tree!

Gathering Song I Saw Three Ships

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming LSB359 vv1-3

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1)

Pastor: As God's people today, we confess our brokenness and ask to be restored into a right relationship into our Lord's family.

People: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. Like Adam in the beginning, we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in living the new life of faith You have won for us. We have acted as if we are not part of your family. For the sake of Jesus' sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us Your mercy.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O almighty God, we come before you today, remembering your ancient words: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. And from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Long before Jesus was born you gave life to a man named Jesse, whose son came Your promised King, David. And from David, you fulfilled your promise of a Savior, your Son Jesus Christ. Dear God, as members of your family today, we thank you that you have a plan for each of us in these last days. Help us to be patient as we wait for Jesus again.

People: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. The circular wreath of evergreen branches reminds us of the eternal nature of our Lord God, and that He gives the promise of eternal life for all who believe, just as a circle is unending, and an evergreen lives through winter. The blue colors of the 3 candles remind us of the royalty of Jesus, and how He welcomes us into His Kingdom.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all Joy.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we rejoice.

First Reading

Jonah 1

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

⁷And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" ⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴Therefore they called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Jonah 2

¹Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying,

“I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

³For you cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

⁴Then I said, ‘I am driven away
from your sight;
Yet I shall again look
upon your holy temple.’

⁵The waters closed in over me to take my life;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped about my head
⁶at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.

⁷When my life was fainting away,
I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

⁸Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁹But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

¹⁰And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 12:38-41

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song of the Day All the Earth with Joy is Sounding LSB462 vv1-3



1 All the earth with joy is sound - ing: Christ has ris - en
2 Christ, the dev - il's might un - wind - ing, Leaves be-hind His
3 Je - sus, au - thor of sal - va - tion, Shared in our hu -



from the dead! He, the great - er Jo - nah, bound - ing
bor - rowed tomb. Strong - er He, the strong man bind - ing,
man - i - ty; Crowned with ra - diant ex - al - ta - tion,



From the grave, His three - day bed, Wins the prize:
Takes, dis - arms his house of doom; In the rout
Now He shares His vic - to - ry! From His face



Death's de - mise— Songs of tri - umph fill the skies.
Cast - ing out Pow'rs of dark - ness, sin, and doubt.
Shines the grace Meant for all our fall - en race.

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Sermon The Jesse Tree: Jonah

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Rejoicing in the hope of our Savior's appearing, let us pray together, saying,

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: In thanksgiving for every man and woman who have been an example of faith to us, and who pointed us to Christ. May the Lord use us as an example until He comes again:

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: For the Church, as we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Jesus once again, who rescues us from our sin and the evil in the world.:

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: For our Christian mission, that we bring glory to God and healing to many people through our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love, and our endurance inspired by hope:

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering O Love, How Deep LSB544 vv1,2

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.

Text: Public domain

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[1 Cor.11:26]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Distribution

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Song of Jonah LSB985

Refrain

I called out to the LORD, and He
an - swered me, and He an - swered me.

Chant Tone

¹ I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.

² For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me;
all Your waves and Your billows passed over me.

³ Then I said, "I am driven away from Your sight;
yet I shall again look upon Your holy temple."

Refrain

⁴ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains.

⁵ I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet You brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

⁶ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple.

Refrain

⁷ Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.

⁸ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the Lord!

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.

Refrain

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Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Announcements

Sending Song O Come, O Come Emmanuel LSB 357 vv1,2,4

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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