

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent, Year C



Parable of the Fig Tree

Ringin' of Bell

PRELUDE - Bell Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy
endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the
assurance of God's abiding love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

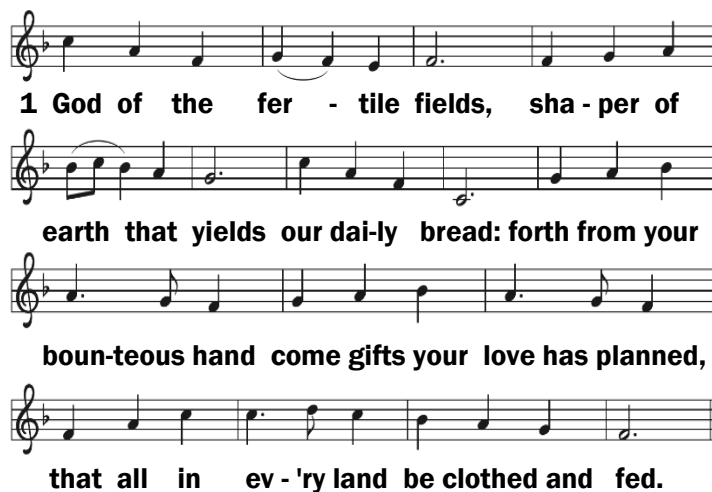
**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love, but our lives do not always
reflect you and your love for the world. We
do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us. We do not welcome
others with the radical hospitality you grant
to all people. We oppress others, even
though you have set us free again and
again. We squander the abundant gifts of
the earth. Transform our lives and guide us
again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always
stretched open wide to welcome the wandering
ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN *God of the Fertile Fields* ACS 1063

(Tune- same as 'Come Thou Almighty King' ELW 408)



- 2 We would be stewards true, holding in
trust from you all that you give; help us in
love to share, teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.
- 3 As grows the hidden seed to fruit that
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all
our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.
- 4 God of the countryside, dear to the Christ
who died to make us one: we pledge
our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our
troubled world through the life, death, and
resurrection of your Son.

**C: Help us to hear your word and obey it, and
bring your saving love to fruition in our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the LORD

- ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread, and your earnings for that which does not
satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you
may live. I will make with you an everlasting
covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
 Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of
 Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their way and the righteous
 their thoughts; let them return to the LORD,
 that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 63:1-8 We read responsively

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as
 in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy
 place, that I might behold your power and your
 glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
 my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up
 my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and
 meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the
 shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right
 hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

Jesus Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and
 sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud,
 and all passed through the sea, ² and all were
 baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the
 sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all
 drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from
 the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock
 was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased
 with most of them, and they were struck down in
 the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us,
 so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not
 become idolaters as some of them did, as it is
 written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and
 they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not engage in
 sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-

three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put
 Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were
 destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain, as
 some of them did, and were destroyed by the
 destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve
 as an example, and they were written down to instruct
 us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if
 you think you are standing, watch out that you do not
 fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not
 common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not
 let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the
 testing he will also provide the way out so that you
 may be able to endure it.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Parable of the fig tree

¹ At that very time there were some present who told
 Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had
 mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them,
 "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered
 in this way they were worse sinners than all other
 Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you
 will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who
 were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—
 do you think that they were worse offenders than all
 the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you,
 but unless you repent you will all perish just as they
 did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree
 planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit
 on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working
 the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come
 looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none.
 Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He
 replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig
 around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next
 year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S WORD

SERMON Pastor D.J. Chatelaine

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Beautiful Things* ACS 925

Pastor D.J. and Guitar

1 **All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way.
 I wonder if my life could really change at all.**

2 **All this earth; could all that is lost ever be
 found? Could a garden come up from this
 ground at all?**

CHORUS **You make beautiful things,
 you make beautiful things out of the dust.
 You make beautiful things,
 you make beautiful things out of us.**

3 All around, hope is springing up from this old ground. Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

CHORUS You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
you make beautiful things out of us.
You make beautiful things,
you make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
you make beautiful things out of us.

BRIDGE You make me new, you are making me new.
You make me new, you are making me new.

CHORUS (as above)

TAG You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.

APOSTLES CREED

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

God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING—BELL CHOIR—GLOBE OFFERING
Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe in the front of the church.

◆ OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

C: As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING Spoken

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

Come to the Table **SING 2X** No. 481

USE HYMNAL

O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts No. 658

USE HYMNAL

TABLE BLESSING

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

C: Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now
and forever.

C: Amen.

◆ HYMN Praise to You O God of Mercy No. 208

1 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!

2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Bridge Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love, rememb'ring
your covenant of life with us.

3 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - BELL CHOIR

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PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—D.J. Chatelaine
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—*Needed*
KEYBOARD/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst
ACOLYTE—Mali Quam
COMMUNION SET-UP—Fred & Linda Barsness
GREETERS—Don & Candy Herrlich
COMMUNION SERVERS— Don & Candy Herrlich, Erica Aronson
COFFEE SERVER—Cora Lee Monroe
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth, Steve Johnson, Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jennifer Lerfald, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt, Jim Fountaine, Brent Ashland, Dick Overby, Dax Eggert, Hannah Michelsen, Larry Walker, Ken Wold.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OL/SKU #900 *Come to the Table* ELW 481
OL/SKU #01117 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* ELW 208

LENT SOUP SUPPERS - Sign up to provide food or help serve at our Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday Nights at 5:30 pm. Followed by worship at 6:30

ORGAN BENEFIT INDOOR GARAGE SALE:
SATURDAY MARCH 29 - See flyer for donation details. **Helpers Needed on event week— See sign-up link e-mailed, or use sign-up posted at church.**

Contacts:

Susan Hoversten 907-854-5959 or
Christine Ersland 507-319-4754

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTION BOOKS
for Apr/May/Jun are available now.

THRIVENT MEMBERS: If you have a \$250 Action Team Grant available, please contact Bryana Lothert to discuss how this money could be used to support children and youth ministry here at First Lutheran.

CALENDAR

Su 3-23	9 AM WORSHIP – w/ <i>Bell Choir</i> <i>*Palm Sun Singers Practice after Worship</i> 10 AM Sun. School 10 AM Coffee & Men's Ministry Information Meeting
Tue 3-25	7 pm KAIC
We 3-26	5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Worship
Thu 3-27	1 PM Love Day 3-5 PM Garage Sale Set Up 6-8 PM Garage Sale Set Up 7 PM AA
Fri 3-28	3- 5 PM Garage Sale Set Up
Sat 3-29	8-2 PM INDOOR GARAGE SALE
Sun 3-30	9 AM WORSHIP 10 AM Sun. School 10 AM Coffee with <i>Adult Form on the 'Blended Worship'</i>

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