



I am
the
vine

you
are the

branches

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

302 Grove Avenue

Tillamook, OR 97141

Church Office: 503-842-4823

Online: redeemertillamook.com

Daniel Bohlken, Visiting Pastor

The Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

OUR WORSHIP

The Vine and the Branches

SERVICE THEME There is, perhaps, no clearer statement on the necessity of a relationship with Christ Jesus for the living of the Christian Life than Jesus' statement in John 15:5: "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

+ Preparing to Hear God's Word +

INVOCATION AND RESPONSIVE PSALM READING (8:7, 14-15, 17-19 NASB)

Pastor: When we are Baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit we receive "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom God the Father poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5-6).

People: Amen.

Pastor: God of armies, restore us and make Your face shine upon us,

People: and we will be saved.

Pastor: God of armies, do not turn back; look down from heaven and see,

People: and take care of this Vine.

Pastor: The Shoot which Your right hand has planted,

People: And of the Son whom You have strengthened for Yourself.

Pastor: Let Your hand be upon the Man of Your right hand,

People: Upon the Son of Man whom You made strong for Yourself.

Pastor: Then we will not turn back from You;

People: Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.

Pastor: LORD God of armies, restore us; make Your face shine upon us,

People: and we will be saved.

ALL: 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!

BAPTISM HYMN LSB 605 – “Father Welcomes”

Refrain

**Father welcomes all His children
To His fam’ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.**

**Little children, come to Me,
For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin.**

Refrain

**In the water, in the word,
In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again.**

Refrain

**Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.**

Refrain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 38 (NASB)

Pastor: LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath,

People: and do not punish me in Your burning anger.

Pastor: There is no healthy part in my flesh because of Your indignation;

People: There is no health in my bones because of my sin.

Pastor: For my guilty deeds have gone over my head;

People: Like a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.

Pastor: I am bent over and greatly bowed down;

People: I go in mourning all day long.

Pastor: I feel faint and badly crushed;

People: I groan because of the agitation of my heart.

Pastor: I wait for You, LORD;

People: You will answer, Lord my God.

Pastor: For I admit my guilt;

People: I am full of anxiety because of my sin.

Pastor: You will not abandon me, LORD;

People: You will not forsake me.

Pastor: The LORD hurries to help us; He forgives all our sins.

People: Lord, You are my forgiveness, my righteousness, and my salvation!

ALL: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN!

SONG OF THANKSGIVING LSB 420, vv. 1 & 6 – “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

**Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings death, and merit, I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit through Jesus’ Word so that we may know that the changing of our character is not only possible, it is necessary – through our abiding in Jesus. We ask in the precious name of Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now, and forever.

People: Amen!

+ Hearing the Word +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 5:1-4 (NASB)

¹ “Let me sing now for My beloved a song of My Beloved about His vineyard. My Beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. ² He dug it all around, cleared it of stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it, and also carved out a wine vat in it; then He expected it to produce good grapes, but it produced only worthless ones. ³ And now, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones?”

EPISTLE READING Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

²² The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Pastor: These Readings are the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-12 (NASB)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the evangelist, the fifteenth chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. ⁵ I am the Vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Things that Are Alive Grow*

MESSAGE SONG *tune: O Waly Waly – "I Am the Vine"*

I Am the Vine. Abide in Me that you may live abundantly.

The Gardener, My Father, will Prune and make you more fruitful still.

But those who did not bear Him fruit He will cut off;

Them He'll uproot and cast away into the fire –

There to be burned in God's hot ire.

Remain in Me and in My love Then God will bless you from above.

Obey My word and My commands To prove that you are My true friends.

MESSAGE *Growth*

Introduction

“You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.”

“Your character is who you are when no one is watching.” (William Temple)

[1] Why must we grow?

“Every branch that does not bear fruit is cut off and cast into the fire.”

[2] Why can we grow?

“I am the Vine; you are the branches.”

[3] How can we grow?

“Remain/abide in Me/My Word/My love/My command.”

Conclusion

Have you given up on yourself/others?

+ Response +

NICENE CREED *LSB back cover*

PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

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!

+ Feasting on the Bread of Life – the Visible Word +

THE PREFACE

Pastor: That person is truly worthy and well-prepared who has faith in these words –

“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.” [Luther’s *Small Catechism*]

OFFERTORY *LSB 704 – “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*

**Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.**

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**Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your word
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light Eternal, through Your grace.**

JESUS’ WORDS

THE LAMB OF GOD *LSB 570, vv. 1-5 – “Just as I Am, without One Plea”*

**Just as I am, without one plea But that thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

DISTRIBUTION *LSB 423/427/430*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: We give thanks to You, Father, that You have refreshed us through this
salutary gift, and we implore You that in Your mercy You would

strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

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BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *LSB 919 – “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”*

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav’nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us From error’s gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.**

**Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

+ + +

**“I am the Vine; My Father is the Gardener.
Each branch that bears no fruit, He cuts away;
While every branch that yields good fruit, He trims and cleans,
So that it will still more produce each day.**

Now you are clean because of My Word’s work in you.

Remain in Me, and I’ll remain in you.

**Just as a branch without the vine can bear no fruit,
So you must stay in Me if you would bear fruit too.”**

**“I am the Vine; if you, like branches, stay in Me
And I in you, you’ll bear much fruit in turn.
Apart from Me, you can accomplish naught for God;
You’re like a branch that withers and is burned.**

**But if you stay in Me and I in you each day,
Ask what you wish; it will be given you.
God will be glorified because you bear much fruit,
For thus you show yourselves to be disciples true.”**

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