

THE BARREN FIG TREE

HE CAME
LOOKING
FOR FRUIT
AND THERE
WAS NONE

LUKE 13:6-9



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-725-1651

www.stjohnsws.com

***St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.***

"Be Still and know that I am God." We greatly enjoy our Sunday morning times to catch-up with each other in fellowship and conversation, both before and after worship. The worship service begins with the playing of the Prelude. Once the prelude begins, please be seated, stop conversing, and prepare your heart for worship. Thank you. Please silence all devices. If at any point you need to or prefer to sit, please feel free to do so.

Prelude: "I Will Sing / Over My Head

Spiritual set by Terry D. Taylor

Youth Choir

Welcome

Announcements

(Stand)

Opening Hymn: #765 "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



■ A - men.

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³ Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴ Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵ if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

¹⁶ None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷ “Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸ When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹ And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. ²⁰ Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers 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, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge 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 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Lent Verse



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He 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.

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

Children's Message

(Pew Pad Distribution)

Hymn of the Day: #760 "What God Ordains Is Always Right" (vs 1, 2, 4-6)

(Pew Pad Collection)

Sermon

(Stand)

Apostles' Creed

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. 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.

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

(Be Seated)

Offering and Offertory Anthem: "From the End of the Earth" by Alan Hovhaness

(Stand)

Offertory



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Passing of the Peace

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER.

St. Paul wrote, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup". Ask yourself: Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Am I resolved, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to use the power of Christ which is offered in this Sacrament, to amend my sinful life? St. Paul also wrote, "He who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly". Do you believe that you receive the TRUE/REAL BODY AND BLOOD of Christ in, under and with the bread and wine for the full pardon of sins? (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.)

Children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

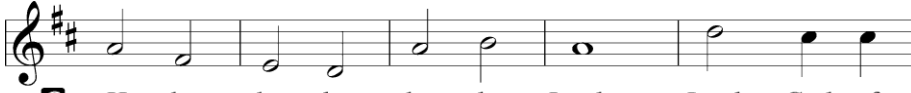
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Peace of Our Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be Seated)

Distribution of Holy Communion by Continuous Line

(Gluten Free wafers available upon request)

Distribution Hymns: #424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

#638 "Eat This Bread"

#755 "In the Very Midst of Life"

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn: #917 “Savior, Again to Thy Name We Raise”

Postlude

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Worship Assistants: **8:30am** – Bob Burke; **10:30am** – Steve Anderson, Bruce Sawicki

Lector: **8:30am** – Claudia Essbach; **10:30am** – Cherry Horn

Ushers: **10:30am** – Shawn, Trevor, Tyler Tibbits, Phil Vangen

Altar Guild for March: Reneé Henderson, Shawn Tibbits, Pastor Phil & Debra Vangen, Cyndie Anderson

Crisis Control Item for March: **Pancake Mix and Syrup** – 112lbs. was collected for the month of February. Thank you for your donations!



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30am and 10:30am
Adult Bible Class begins at 9:45am

A Great Place to Grow in Christ

*As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a
Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 5th grade.
All programs/grades have full-time care available.*

Pastor Tyson Labuhn
Tiffany Banks, Principal
Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship
Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship

Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.