



THE PARABLE OF
THE FRUITLESS
FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

The Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025 10:15am

Despite the frustration of the landowner in today's parable, trees don't necessarily produce fruit every year, especially in stressful conditions. Instead of learning about or caring for his tree, the landowner assumes it is faulty—a "waste of soil." It is curious that many interpreters assume that the landowner in this parable is God, given he demands the fig tree produce or perish. Instead, the landowner's frustration sounds all too human; when something doesn't bend to our will, we call it a waste—but God does not. Christ has never called us a waste of soil—or a waste of grace. Indeed it is Jesus, who is associated with the gardener, who cares for us and feeds us so we might be fruitful anew.

We Gather & Prepare to Hear God's Word

Gathering Music "Now is the Time of Grace" "The Cross"
"Thrive" "Awesome God"

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome/Invocation

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Responsive Call to Worship

We gather as broken brothers and sisters in Christ.

We realize our brokenness and seek strength and courage in the midst of our faith community.

We gather as beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

We seek and embrace daily love and courage in the midst of our faith community.

We are reminded that we are broken and beloved at the same time.

As broken and beloved saints and sinners, we are comforted knowing God's love is steadfast.

The steadfast love and peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(we greet one another)

Gathering Song

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

In the season of Lent, we are invited on a journey. We are invited to walk a path of reflection, acknowledging both the shadows and light of our lives. Trusting in the grace of God, and before one another, let us admit the shadows and light.

Holy God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Sometimes we pretend to be better than we are. We do things we know will hurt others and act as though we are blameless. We are guilty, and we are broken.

We ask for your forgiveness, because you love us more than we can imagine. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who came to show us the way. Amen.

Friends in Christ hear this; trust in the Lord, and let your heart rejoice, for indeed we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Song “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” ELW 334 (v. Lent 3)

We Listen to the Word of God

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that 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 labor 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.

5 See, 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 unrighteous 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

I Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, 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 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

Drive Out The Darkness

P. Zach, I Wardell, D. Marotta,
John Swinton, Owen Stroud

6 Come, O - come, be our light, drive out the dark - ness, come, & end all the

10 vio - lence; come, & do not be si - lent; come, we cling to Your

prom - ise; come, You'll break all in - jus - tice. Come, Je-sus, come.

Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9

The Gospel reading is found in the Gospel of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He 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 others 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 gardener, '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 our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Amy Juel

We Respond to the Call of God
Song of the Day

925

Beautiful Things

G Gsus2(#4) D

1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
 2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
 3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing

G Gsus2(#4) D

ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
 lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
 up from this old ground. . . . Out of cha - os,

G Gsus2(#4) Bm A G Gsus2(#4) D

life could real - ly change at all.
 come up from this ground at all?
 life is be - ing found in you.

Refrain

D DM7 D6

You make beau-ti - ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.

D DM7

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -

D6 D G Gsus2(#4) D

ful things out of us.

The Apostles' Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of the Church (God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**)

Offering Music Psalm 63, "Better Than Life"

Offertory Prayer

Together we pray, **We bring you only what is yours, Creator God, that you might use this offering for the building up of your kingdom and the glory of your name. Amen.**

We Celebrate the Table of God

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Communion Music "We Eat the Bread of Teaching" ELW 518

"When We Are Tested"

(to the tune of "Lord of All Hopefulness")

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, as you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up to die on the cross for us all: Grant that we may live in him and he in us, as we serve you all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements

We Depart to Serve God

Sending Blessing

Sending Song "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" ELW 857

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

We will. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Sundays and Seasons v.20231227.1545 Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Drive Out the Darkness, CCLI #698435; Communion prayer from lca.org.au; Bulletin cover from Churchart.com, "better Than Life", CCLI License #698435

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO: The family and friends of Nathan Lee Antich, Son of Pam and Jim Jacobson.

BULLETIN TODAY IS SPONSORED BY LEE PAULSON FOR HER 90TH BIRTHDAY WHICH WILL BE CELEBRATED ON APRIL 5TH. Join Lee for her Open House on Saturday, April 5 from 2 - 4:30pm in Bethany Hall. Your presence is present enough so please no gifts.

Congratulations to Nick and Alli Moser on the birth of Kensley Faith Moser. Her Grandparents are Mike and Cindy Moser.

Readings and Psalm for Next Week

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

Serving Sunday 10:15am

Preaching: Pastor Amy Juel
Acolytes: Lucettee Strommer, Houston Sorgatz
Communion: Aden Jacobson, Karen Loge, Meghan Knott
Greeters: Leon & Deb Lentz, Lyle & Karen Loge
Lector: Laura Sehloff
Office: Krista Willis - 9:30 - 11:15am
Sound: Kim Larson
Video: Jody Skindelien

LENTEN OFFERINGS

2025 Lenten Offerings will be donated to Circle of Welcome, a new outreach ministry partnership between Calvary and River of Hope in Hutchinson through Lutheran Social Services. We thank the CoW Team- Cathy and Joel Halbritter, David Sehloff, and LaNell Koenig for their commitment to this ministry. If anyone is interested in more information about Circle of Welcome or would like to be a part of the team, please contact team members or the Church Office.

Weekly Attendance - 183
YouTube - 105 households / Sunday School - 37
General Offering - \$8,931.95

MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH

March is the month that we emphasize the need to stock the shelves at the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. In order to collect a good variety of non-perishable food, we suggest the following for each week:

March 1 & 2 - **Canned vegetables, fruit, meat (tuna, spam, etc.)**

March 8 & 9 - **Soups, crackers**

March 15 & 16 - **Cereals, peanut butter, breakfast items, granola bars**

March 22 & 23 - **Pasta, sauces, mac & cheese, dry milk, etc.**

March 29 & 30 - **Any non-perishable food**

As always, monetary donations are welcome and can be left in the office or the offering plate (with food shelf designation). We have set a goal of \$1,600. Let's get on board and fill the cart every week! Thank you for your willingness to give.

Social Kindness Committee

THANK YOU

Thank you to Connie Anderson, mother of Val Amberg who made the beautiful Wall Quilt for Calvary. Stop at the office window and take a look at it.

HONOR LOVED ONES

Every Easter, Calvary loves to fill the Sanctuary with flowers, provided in honor and in memory of loved ones. You are invited to purchase plants for \$10 per plant to express your love and appreciation and help the church defray the cost of providing the plants. **Friday, April 11, 2025**, is the last day to order Easter flowers. Please stop by the office to place an order for a loved one. If paying by check, make payable to "Calvary Lutheran Church".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marian Gilbertson, a longtime member of Calvary turns 100 years old on April 10th. Here is her address if you would like to send her a birthday card:

Marian Gilbertson
1006 19th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560-3651

OPEN HOUSE SURPRISE 80TH PARTY FOR ALLEN BARRETT

Allen Barrett is having a surprise 80th-birthday celebration on Sunday, April 13 from 12 - 2pm at 7280 21st Ave NW, Pennock. RSVP by April 1 to Brielle Barrett (320) 894-8913 or Barrett_Brielle@hotmail.com.

NTY

**Friday, April 11
12:00 Noon**

It's Spring and time for NTY to get together again in 2025!! Remember Carolyn Sowinski, the author, from Michigan? She was with us in August 2023 and would like to speak to our group again about another book she wrote and its connection to Calvary. It's a biography of Gabriel Stene, son of Norwegian immigrants who settled in Lake Andrew Township in 1867. He and his family lived in Willmar in the 1880's and were part of the Calvary congregation. Please call the church office by 4:30pm Wednesday, April 9th to register. Guests are always welcome. If you can't make it for lunch, you're welcome to come for the program at 1:00pm.

The cost for lunch will be \$7.00, payable on the day of NTY. Please pay Sue Roepke in Bethany Hall and not at the church office. (Note that cancellations after Wednesday and no-shows will still require payment due to increased food costs.) Thank you. If you have any questions, please call Diane Asche at 295-8938.

SOCIAL KINDNESS

Social Kindness Committee meets on Tuesday, April 1 at 1:00pm in the Friendship Room.

DEACONESS

The Deaconess Committee meets on Wednesday, April 2 at 1:30pm in the Friendship Room

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

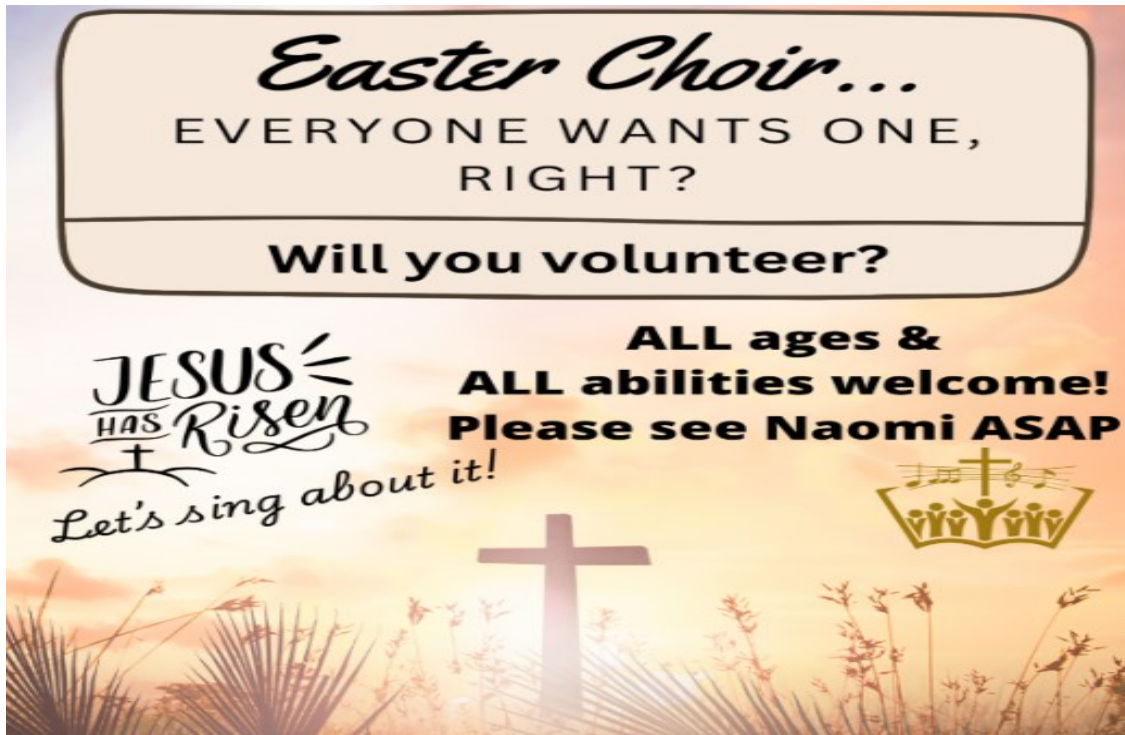
The Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, April 7th at 8:00am at McMillans.

SILENT BIBLE STUDY

Silent Bible Study will meet March 26th at 12:00 noon in the library. ALL ARE WELCOME!

SCAM ALERT

It has been brought to our attention that there have been some members getting emails requesting purchasing gift cards. Please know that none of the staff at Calvary will send out a personal email requesting you to purchase a gift card. If you should receive a personal email from any of the Pastors or staff that is questionable, please contact the church office at 320-235-2508 before sending anything out. We want to keep you all safe.



APRIL 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 2nd	5:30 Meal 6:15 Lenten Worship Confirmation follows Worship
Saturday, April 5th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 6th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship
Wednesday, April 9th	5:30 Meal 6:15 Lenten Worship Confirmation follows Worship
Saturday, April 12th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship-Sunday School Children process with Palms
Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday	6:15pm Worship - First Communion
Friday, April 18th Good Friday	6:15pm Worship
Saturday, April 19th Holy Saturday	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 20th Easter Sunday	8:00am Worship 10:15am Worship
Saturday, April 26th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel Earth Weekend/Creation Care
Sunday, April 27th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship - Earth Sunday/Creation Care

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE
PLANET BUT DOESN'T KNOW
WHERE TO START

Check it out!

A Christian's Guide to Planet Earth
WHY IT MATTERS AND HOW TO CARE FOR IT
BEVE PAINTER

Have you ever wished you had extra silverware (not plastic) when hosting a holiday or a party?

Calvary's Creation Care Team is gathering an assortment of slightly used silverware to create a silverware library.

Calvary members would be able to "check-out" the silverware so that they would not need to purchase plastic silverware, which ends up in the landfill.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can donate any extra silverware (in good condition) that you may have. Please drop off at the church office.

Thanks for your help reducing the use of plastic!



Saturday April 12, 2025

12:00-4:00pm

Cost: FREE

All Ages Welcome!

Interactive exhibits on water quality, energy efficiency, & conservation

Live presentations w/Science Museum of MN at 12:30pm & 3:00pm

+Rock climbing wall +Guided prairie walks & pond study

+Outdoor gear sale to support Prairie Woods

+Hands-on kids' activities +Food truck on site!



WEST CENTRAL SINGERS
presents
**A to Z:
A Choral
Smorgasbord**

Director Naomi Powers-Baker
Accompanist Kari Stadem

Saturday, March 29, 2025
4 pm | Faith Lutheran Church
310 Medayto Drive | Spicer, MN

Sunday, March 30, 2025
4 pm | Calvary Lutheran Church
302 Olena Avenue SE | Willmar, MN

westcentralsingers.com
Tickets Available at the Door
Children & Students Free!
Adults \$10

Lent and Holy Week Schedule 2025

- 3/5 6:15 Ash Wednesday Worship w/Communion
- 3/12 5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
- 3/19 5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
- 3/26 5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
- 4/2 5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
- 4/9 5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
- 4/13 8 & 10:15am PALM SUNDAY Worship w/Communion
- 4/17 6:15 Maundy Thursday Worship/First Communion
- 4/18 6:15 Good Friday Worship
- 4/19 5:30 Holy Saturday Chapel Worship
- 4/20 8 & 10:15am EASTER Worship w/Communion

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Let It Go" was a popular song from Disney's film, Frozen. "Just let it go!" Has anyone ever said that to you? How do you let go of those anxieties or fears that come into your life? Or maybe someone has done something or failed to do something that hurt your feelings or made you angry. How does one "just let it go"?

It would be nice if there were some easy answers, some formula which we could follow and all would be right again.

Well, maybe there is. But it isn't always easy to follow. It may take some time, some patience and most definitely - trust. It requires taking time and spending it with God. Most of us don't take enough time to step back, breathe deeply, and just open our hearts and minds to God's wisdom.

It can be scary too. After all, if we let go of those things that are churning around in us, what will be left? What will fill that void? We need to trust that God's love and goodness will fill us with whatever we need at the time, will feed us with whatever our hearts hunger for, and will bring peace and assurance for our souls.

God will never leave a void in our lives. God will make those dark places light, smooth out the rough places, straighten that which is crooked, and fill those places that may be empty with love, kindness, and joy.

Lent is a perfect time to "just let it go." As we spend time in meditation and contemplation of the journey to the cross, it is the perfect time to turn those slights, hurts, fears, anger, and anxieties over to God. It's a perfect time to lay them at the foot of the cross, freeing our hearts and souls to be more intentional in our walk with God.

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. We ask for the strength and courage to accept the reality that your wisdom is ever present and available to us. Help us to be open to you knowing that you are ready to fill us with new understanding, life, and light. Be with us and guide us as we continue our journey to the cross in this season of Lent. In your name we pray. Amen.

With you on the journey...
Pastor Wayne

Sunday, March 23

8:00am Worship – P. Amy
9:00am Coffee Time with Council – Koinonia Room
9:00am Girl Scout Troop 3655 selling cookies
9:05am Sunday School
9:05am 1st Communion Instruction – 2nd Grade – Room 112
10:15am Worship
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

Monday, March 24

5:00pm Bell Choir

Tuesday, March 25

6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3749 – Room 201
6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181

Wednesday, March 26

12:00pm Silent Bible Study
5:30pm Lenten Meal
6:15pm Worship Service
7:00pm Confirmation 6-9th grade

Thursday, March 27

9:30am Text Bible Study – Friendship Room
1:00pm Quilting
5:45pm Girl Scout Troop #3655 – Friendship Room

Saturday, March 29

5:30pm Chapel Service – P. Wayne

Sunday, March 30

8:00am Worship – P. Wayne
9:00am Coffee Time
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
4:00pm West Central Singers Concert
4:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3515 – Room 201
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

If you would like to contribute to the mission of Calvary Lutheran Church, please click on our QR code. Thank you!

