

Second Wednesday of Lent

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

February 21, 2024

6:30 p.m.



The Gardens of God

Week 2

The Vineyard Of Noah

AS WE GATHER

For a Lenten series on the Gardens of God, a stop in the story of Noah may seem a bit out of place. But what happens in this story with Noah shows us not only something about humanity, but something about God. You see, after the fall, sin continued to get more saturated into the ground and into the fabric of creation. Within one generation, humanity goes from eating fruit in a garden to killing one another. It got bad, quick. God decided to judge the world with a flood. But He takes Noah, a faithful and righteous man, and saves his family by bringing them over those flood waters. Eight souls in all. But while Noah was faithful, Noah was still human. Noah was a sinner, just like you and me. Once it was safe to re-enter the world, Noah plants a vineyard. Noah gets drunk. Noah passes out. Noah's son Ham exposes his father's shame. Humanity is the same. But so is God. God is still bringing about his plan of salvation as we move from one Garden to the next.

PRELUDE

“Garden” -Kip Fox

PASTORAL WELCOME

THEME VERSE

People: ²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. (Genesis 9:20-21)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as we move from the Garden of Eden to the Vineyard of Noah, we know that mankind continued to fall. Humanity goes from disobeying Your will to literally killing one another in a single generation and things don't get better. Even as you judge the earth in the flood, you show creation mercy, you bring us through from death to life.

People: **And yet our response is to focus on what ourselves and others instead of you. We feel the temptation to sooth our own hurts in unhealthy ways. Like Noah maybe we just want to numb ourselves to everything we have experienced. Maybe like Ham we proclaim the sins of others rather than showing mercy and helping them cover their shame. Help us instead to turn to your grace, to see your forgiveness, and to forgive and show mercy to others the way you have shown mercy to us. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "In Adam We Have All Been One" **LSB #569**, v. 1-3

- 1 In Adam we have all been one, One huge rebellious man;
We all have fled that evening voice That sought us as we ran.**
- 2 We fled Thee, and in losing Thee We lost our brother too; Each
singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew.**

**3 But Thy strong love, it sought us still And sent Thine only Son
That we might hear His Shepherd's voice And, hearing Him, be
one.**

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Genesis 9, Isaiah 5 & Psalm 80)

Pastor: Long ago a vineyard was planted.

People: **The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.**

Pastor: What happened in that place of promise?

People: **People forgot the One who planted the vineyard.
They chose their own ways and failed.**

Pastor: Let us again turn to the Lord,

People: **who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in
faithfulness.**

Pastor: Let us open our hearts to God,

People: **trusting in God's ways and God's word. Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we continue to walk through the gardens of Scripture, tonight we come to a vineyard, and we see that even the most faithful are still subject to sin.

People: **Most Merciful God, it can be difficult for us to see
faithful and righteous Noah, drunk and shamefully
exposed in his tent. It also pains us to see ourselves in
Ham, taking joy in the sins and the mistakes of others.
Here, in this vineyard, we use your creation once again
to choose our will and harm ourselves. But we know
that sin is pervasive. We know that sin will be an issue
for all of us with every breath we breathe in this earthly**

life. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We Sin 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.

Pastor: There's One sinless One. One who never succumbed to temptation. One who never gave in to sin. His name is Jesus Christ. In His mercy, God has given Jesus, 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 the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB #609, v. 1

**1 Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Heavenly Father, when the reality of life looms large and we find ourselves in despair that is when we seem to think that you are the furthest and yet it is when you are the most near. We don't know what led Noah to plant a vineyard, wait for the grapes, harvest them and ferment them, but we do know that he had seen a lot of devastation, a lot of

destruction, a lot of death, even as your hand brought him through. Lord, when the brokenness of our world leads us to despair, help us remember your son who told us that he has overcome the world, and that he is preparing for us a new garden, a new city, a place where pain will be no more.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 9:18-29

Noah's Descendants

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said,

“Cursed be Canaan;
a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”

²⁶ He also said,

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;
and let Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,
and let him dwell in the tents of Shem,
and let Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Speak O Lord"

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Stand

LENTEN REFRAIN:

LSB 173

People: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:22-37

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Seventeenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²² And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³ And they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them. ²⁴ For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. ²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot— they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, ²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— ³⁰ so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. ³² Remember Lot’s wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the corpse is, there the vultures[□] will gather.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

People: 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.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY “When Peace Like a River” LSB #763, v.1-4

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain

**Refrain: It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
Refrain**

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

**4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul.
Refrain**

SERMON After The Flood

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Go To Dark Gethsemane” **LSB 436, V. 1**

People: **Go to dark Gethsemane, You who feel the tempter's power; Your Redeemer's conflict see; Watch with Him one bitter hour; Turn not from His griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Pastor: God of grace, in the story of creation, you made the earth a garden and entrusted it to us to till and to keep, a place of peace and beauty where we could walk with you. In the story of redemption, the one who died for us was buried in a garden, and there you raised him up to greet us with new hope and risen life. In the story of the Church, you tend us as a garden, a place of careful pruning and abundant harvest. Meet us, we pray, in all the gardens where we go for nourishment, refreshment and prayer. Lord, in your mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer**

Pastor: Almighty Father, Since the Garden of Eden, You call to us saying, “Where are you?” Yet, since the Garden, we humans have often been hiding in shame. Help us to stop hiding and bring our sins into the light. Help us to see how we have been deceived by half-truths and false promises. May temptation be bitter in our mouths as you lead us away from forbidden fruits that would only bring us the curse of pain and death. Take away our sin and restore our relationship with you. Lord, In Your Mercy:

People: **Hear our prayer**

Pastor: Bless the garden of your Church, O God. Guide those who plant and tend it. Protect the young, strengthen the flourishing, and make us faithful stewards in the labor of planting and cultivating, planning and protecting, and

offering to you the return. Make us fruitful in ministry and mission. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Bless the gardens of our community, the shelter of families, the fragrance of friendship. In all our care for one another, make us grow in wisdom and love, in gentleness, kindness and truth. Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Give tender care to all who are struggling through weakness, sickness, grief or change. Show us your grace at work in the times when growth is painful or when death is near. Especially this day we ask you to be with all those on our prayer list, and those we name in our hearts (____).
Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord God, since you have called us and received us as your disciples, give us the grace to abide in him as fruitful branches, and bring us at last with all your saints to resurrection life. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

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.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” **LSB #850, v. 1-4**

- 1 God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your
pow’r; Crown Your ancient Church’s story; Bring its bud to
glorious flow’r. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.**
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith
and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.**
- 3 Cure Your children’s warring madness; Bend our pride to Your
control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and
poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss
Your kingdom’s goal, Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.**
- 4 Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore, Serving You whom we adore.**

POSTLUDE

“How Great Thou Art”

SERVING US AT WORSHIP

Officiant Preacher: Pastor Tim Anderson

Organist /Dir. of Music: Ellen Brown

Song Leader & Lector: Wendell Robson

Special Music: The Beautiful Savior Singers