Music Today Mark Gould

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faithful to God, but succeeding generations wandered away, until only a stump remained. From that stump, a Branch would come: our Lord Jesus, who fulfills all ancient promises. Each week, we hear the story of several ancestors of Jesus - Each story showing God's plan of salvation and how He guided humanity to prepare for His coming. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the Middle Ages, and derives its name from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David, and from the family line of David, our Savior came. Today, come and see YOUR place in God's family tree!

Gathering Song

Mark & David Gould - Piano & Cello

Welcome & Invocation Pastor Aaron Boerst



Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1)

Pastor: As God's people today, we confess our brokenness and ask to be restored into a right

relationship into our Lord's family.

People: Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. Like

Adam in the beginning, we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in living the new life of faith You have won for us. We have acted as if we are not part of your family. For the sake of Jesus' sacrifice

on the tree of the cross, grant us Your mercy.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to

suffer and die for our salvation. 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.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor:

O almighty God, we come before you today, remembering your ancient words: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. And from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Long before Jesus was born you gave life to a man named Jesse, whose son came Your promised King, David. And from David, you fulfilled your promise of a Savior, your Son Jesus Christ. Dear God, as members of your family today, we thank you that you have a plan for each

of us in these last days. Help us to be patient as we wait for Jesus again.

People: Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 61: 1-3

(The Promise of The Anointed One of the Lord)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Colossians 3:12–17

(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading Luke 2:22–40

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law

of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

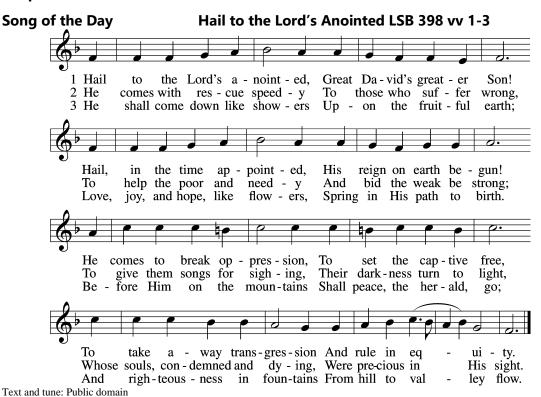
³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Sermon The Jesse Tree: The Chi Rho Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed - Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life Φ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Lord God, as we celebrate our Savior's birth we thank and praise you for coming into the world

of our dark sin. But Lord, we continue to ask that you may come into our world once more.

People: O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Pastor: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, sending Your Son into our

world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins. Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas

aift.

People: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay

Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Pastor: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us. You gave up heaven to live on

earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin. Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

People: Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,

Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart

For You to dwell within my heart.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, gathering us together

through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and

blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

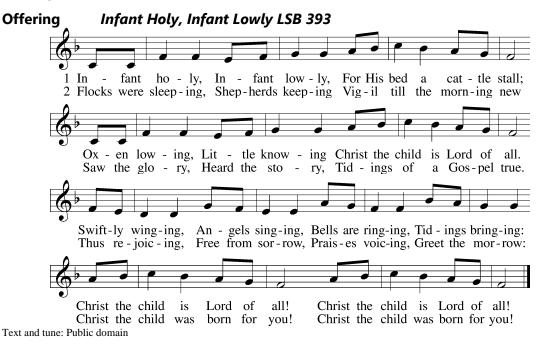
Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your

mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace



Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every

good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto

Yourself and use them to Your glory. [Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

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

[1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Distribution

David Gould Solo



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Announcements

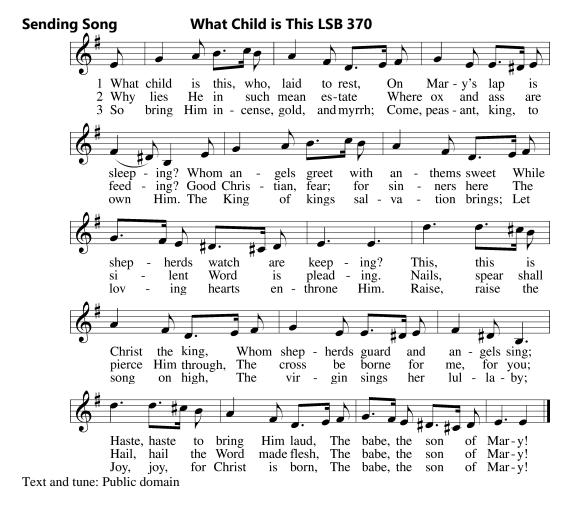
Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

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.



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