

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

Opening Song

Let Our Gladness Have No End LSB 381



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!
3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!
From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

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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,

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."

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.**

Song of the Day Hail to the Lord's Anointed LSB 398 vv 1-3



1 Hail to the Lord's a - nointed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.

Text and tune: Public domain

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 ☩ 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 gift.

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

Offering *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly LSB 393*



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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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

O Sing of Christ LSB 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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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.**

Sending Song

What Child is This LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

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