



Welcome to Good Shepherd

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Today's Worship

March 12, 2017

The parable of the fig tree that bears no fruit. The question of suffering is an ancient one. Too often people struggle to lay blame for their own struggles. Jesus calls us to focus our attention elsewhere. We pray that God would show us how to bear fruit so that people would see the goodness of God within us ... in all we say and all we do.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn "Blest Are They" ELW 728

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We are called to a holy and righteous life, trusting always in God's promises. Too often we fall short of God's expectations. Let us confess our sins, that we might receive grace and mercy.

Pause for silence and reflection

P: God of justice and forgiveness,

C: We know that you are a God of both love and judgement. That scares us because we know that we have earned punishment. Our sins are great. But we are hopeful, God because you are greater. Forgive us and gather us together as precious, beloved children.

P: Although the Lord God could punish us God chooses to gift us with forgiveness. Receive the forgiveness of God, in the name of God's holy son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Kyrie. page 184

Prayer of the Day

C: Loving God, you long to gather us under your wings. Empower us to embrace you rather than reject you. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Choir Anthem "Wayfaring Stranger". Adult Choir

Psalms 122 (read responsively)

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

²**Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem--built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

⁵For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

⁸**For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."**

⁹For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Song "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People". Adult Choir

*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Luke chapter 13.

C: Praise to you, O Lord

Bible Story Luke 13:1-9

¹Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered by the thousands, so that they trampled on one another, he began to speak first to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. ²Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ³Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops. ⁴I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. ⁷But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ⁸And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; ⁹but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People". Adult Choir

Sermon

Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand". ELW 773

The Apostles' Creed. page 105

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory Response "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" ELW 184

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song "How Great Thou Art". ELW 856

Dismissal

P: Go in peace.

C: Serve the Lord.

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary Iverson

Scripture Reader: Bill Groskreutz, Jr.

SS Teacher: Sara Theede

Birthdays-Mar19-25 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

12-Alex Huper

15-Daniel Tatge

Halle Schrader

Ashton Vedders

Eric Warmka

Wilma Thisius

18-Gale Gottberg

13-Tessa Cummings

16-Ann Erickson

Jackson Huper

Holy Baptism - Declan James Willner, son of James B. & Jennifer Willner, born May 9, 2016. His Christian sponsors are Kelly Langer & Joshua Langer.

God's Blessings to Anna Jo DeLaittre, daughter of Mark DeLaittre and Pearl Vedders. Anna was baptized during worship on Wed., March 8th. Her Christian sponsors are Sara & Frances Oldham and Brian & Kathleen Ehlert & family.

March Food Collection - During the month of March we will collect food donations of cans of tuna. A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your February donations of paper products that also went to the Food Shelf.

Youth Night at the Church ~ Grades 3-6 - Friday, March 24 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. - Games, devotions, snacks and a project to reach out to the older members of our church. Gather in the Good Shepherd basement Social hall (dining room) for the fun evening together. This event is FREE and you may bring one friend. Please sign up on the sheet on the church office door by Wednesday, March 22. We are going to make Easter Baskets for some of our homebound members of our church. Please bring some Easter treats that we can add to Easter baskets.

Senior Saints - Join us on Wed., March 15th at 11:00 a.m. at the Broadway Apartments to hear our special guest Betsy Hermanson who works with the Wells Historical Society. She will enlighten us with some history about Wells. Thank you to the March service group for providing the noon meal.

Fun, fun, fun at the Church ~ Grades K-2 - Sunday, March 26 3:30-4:30 p.m. - We will play some fun games today, have a devotion together and a snack will be served. Gather in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall (dining room) for this fun time together. The cost is FREE and you may bring a friend but we do ask you to sign up on the sheet on the church office door by Wednesday, March 22.

Butter Braids Pastry Sale - Fund raiser for ELCA Youth Gathering Trip - The Youth Gathering group are selling Butter Braid, frozen flaky braided fruit filled pastries. Watch for the youth before and after worship services. You can also stop and order your butter braids at the church office. Orders will be received through March 15 and will be delivered for distribution on March 29, in time for Easter breakfast and Mother's Day!

Annual Benefit Concert - Music, Magic and Mischief - Benefitting Wells Area Food Shelf and USC Back Pack Program. Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. USC Auditorium, Wells Silent Auction – bidding begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends during intermission. A project of Minnesota Food Share March Campaign.

THE BAPTISM OF

Declan James Willner

March 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

(L: Pastor; P: Parents; S: Sponsors; C: Congregation)

God's Promises in Baptism

L: Baptism is a gift from God. In the waters of Baptism, we are reborn children of God and given eternal life. Baptism frees us from sin and death by joining us to Jesus Christ.

S: We present Declan James Willner to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

L: You have presented Declan James, for Baptism. Will you share Christ's love with him by your words and actions? Will you treasure him as a special gift from God and care for him with the love of Christ? Will you pray for him, that God's presence fills his life?

P/S: We will.

L: Will you teach him how much Jesus loves him? Will you teach him that he is a child of God forever? Will you bring him to the gathering of God's people so that he grows up worshiping and praising God? Will you teach him to pray, introduce him to the Scriptures, and see that he is given every opportunity to grow in Christ?

P/S: We will.

L: I ask you to publicly take a stand for Jesus Christ. Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil and his empty promises?

P/S: I do.

L: Do you believe in God, our Creator, Savior, and Counselor?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Baptism

L: Declan James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication

L: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Declan James; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: Amen.

The Sign of the Cross

L: Declan James child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Baptismal Banner

L: “But now, this is what the Lord says, he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.”

Baptismal Candle

L: “Let your Light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Prayer

L: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon JB and Jennifer parents of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Members of Good Shepherd, you have witnessed the Baptism of Declan James. Will you pray for him and share your faith with him? Will you remind him that he belongs to Christ and that as Christ’s people we all belong to each other?

C: We will.

L: Please, welcome your new brother in the name of Jesus.

C: Declan James, you are a child of God with us. Together we belong to Christ and together we are called to praise and serve Lord’s family, into Good our hearts and lives.

him. We welcome you into the Shepherd’s congregation, and into

