

You Are: The Branches

Third Sunday In Lent
March 23, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

Throughout the Scriptures, God uses pictures to help us understand more about who WE are in relation to Him. Our series for the first five Sundays of Lent helps us discover more about ourselves and our relationship to God as we explore some of the “You Are” statements we find in God’s Word. “You Are”: Children of God . . . My Disciples . . . The Branches . . . Light and Salt . . . My Witnesses.

It’s likely that no one else has ever called you a “branch.” But when Jesus calls us “branches” after He calls Himself the “Vine,” we can begin to understand His desire that we find in Him the nourishment we need to grow as His people and to be a blessing to all. WE DEPEND ON CHRIST!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

“Praise You Anywhere”
“Firm Foundation (He Won’t)”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

KIDS TIME

“Living Water”

Liz Peters

MESSAGE

“Connected and Filled”

Rev. Doug Slavens

(Today's readings)

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

P: We come before our God, confessing our sins to Him:

C: Dear Lord Jesus, You are the true Vine of life. To be connected to You is to be connected to life itself. And yet, my living often fails to reflect the gift of life You have given me. My every day actions are filled with sinful thoughts, words, and actions. You've given me life so that I might bear lasting fruit, but my neighbors have often suffered from the lack of fruit coming forth from my life.

Restore my connection to You and to the people around me through the forgiveness of sins You so graciously give. Nourish me with Your Good Word. I pray to You, trusting Your love for me. Amen.

(a time of quiet before the Lord)

WE HEAR GOD'S FORGIVENESS

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH -- APOSTLES' CREED

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

WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION - THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE SING

“Evidence”

“Run To The Father”

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

WE SING

“Good God Almighty”

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: “Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You.”

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.