

Welcome to Tree of Life!

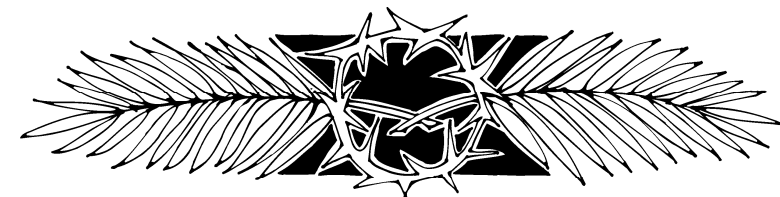
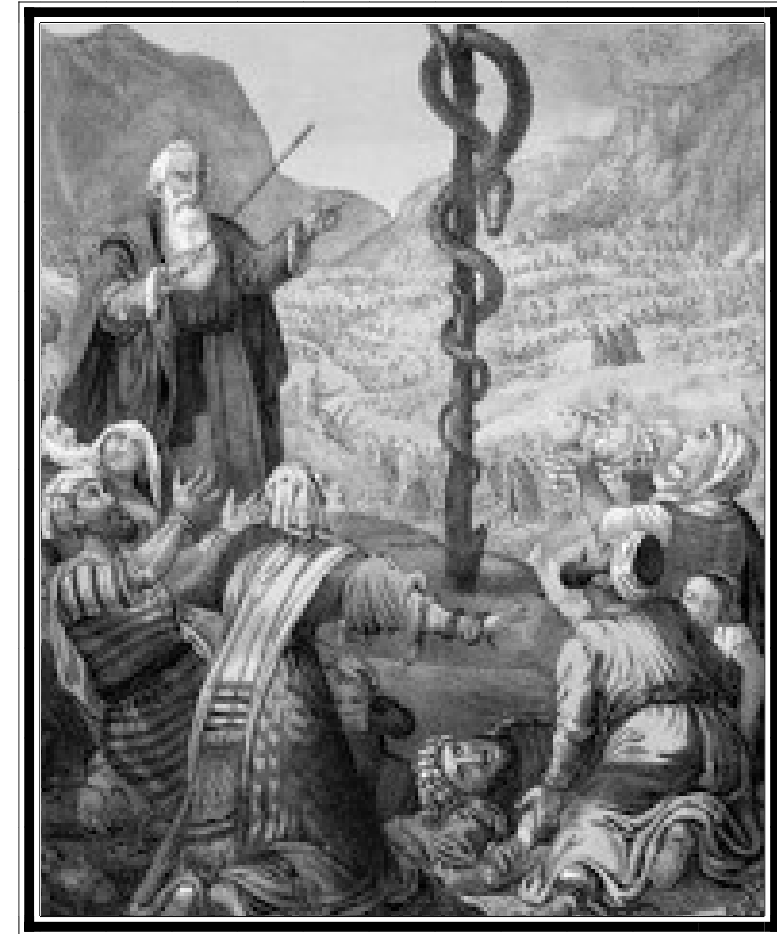
The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell: **"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)**
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that: **"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)**
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper: **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)**
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)**

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



Fourth Sunday In Lent

MARCH 22, 2009



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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PERKS OF THE PASSION:

WE HAVE NEW LIFE!

Good morning!

Life moves fast. Business. School. Family. Activities. All these things can keep us focused on the here and now, loose sight of our eternal destination and our temporal purpose. As children of God and dear objects of his love, we marvel today at the life Christ gave for us so that we might have new life in him! May God bless our worship of him this morning!

Opening Songs..... “Here I am to Worship” *with* “You Are My King”

“Here I am to Worship”: Tim Hughes/© 2000 Thankyou Music

“You are My King”: Billy Foote/ © 1996 worshiptogether.com songs

Verse 1

Light of the World,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus

So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely,
altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

Verse 2

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You
created,
All for love’s sake became poor.

Chorus

Bridge *(sing twice)*

And I’ll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

Chorus

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Song “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”
Rick Founds/© 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc.

Verse
Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us.

Chorus
You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift Your name on high.

Verse
Chorus (*sing twice*)

Verse (“You are My King”, *sing twice*)
I'm forgiven because
You were forsaken.
I'm accepted;
You were condemned.
I'm alive and well,
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.

Chorus 1
Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
It's my joy to honor You.

Verse

Chorus 2
Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
It's my joy to honor You.
In all I do I honor You.

Bridge
You are my King, You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King, Jesus,
You are my King.

Chorus 2
Chorus (*from “Here I am to Worship”*)
So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

M: As we gather for worship, we ask the presence of our Triune God, the Father who created us, the Son who died and rose for us, and the Spirit who guides us.

Song “Above All”
Lenny LeBlanc | Paul Baloche/© 1999 Integrity's Hosanna! Music | LenSongs Publishing

Verse
Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever
known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what you're
worth.

Chorus (*sing twice*)
Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me,
Above all.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us during this season of Lent to come before him with repentant hearts seeking his forgiveness and his strength to turn from sin and amend our lives. As we stand at the foot of the cross and gaze at our Savior suffering for us, let us confess our sins to him.

C: Dear Lord Jesus, it is for our sake that you suffered under the hands of the rulers and the soldiers. It is for our sake that you allowed them to nail you to the cross even though you could have walked away. It is for our sake that God the Father laid on you the iniquity of us all. It is with repentant hearts that we fall before your cross pleading, "Lord have mercy on us sinners." It is with humble hearts that we ask you to hear us as we confess to you.

Silence for personal confession.

M: The thief on the cross asked Jesus to remember him when he came into heaven. Jesus did. The soldiers and religious leaders sinned unknowingly against Jesus, yet Jesus said, "Father forgive them." It is the same mercy and grace that Jesus now gives to you. For sins, known or unknown, he speaks to you, "You are forgiven." For comfort and certainty that your sins no longer separate you from God he says, "You will be with me in paradise." Receive this promise of forgiveness with a heart of faith in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) AMEN

M: With hearts cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, let us respond with joyful praise!

Song of Praise "At the Cross"
Randy Butler | Terry Butler/© 1993 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing

Verse
I know a place, a wonderful place
Where accused and condemned
find mercy and grace,
Where the wrongs we have done,
And the wrongs done to us,
Were nailed there with Him,
there on the cross.

Chorus
At the cross, He died for our sin.
At the cross, He gave us life again.

Verse
Chorus *(sing twice)*

Friendship Registers

Thank you for joining us this morning! Please take a moment to make a record of your time with us! Please check any boxes that apply.

Offering

Gathering of Prayer Requests

The congregation is invited to submit their prayer requests on the index cards that are handed out by the ushers. Once you have printed your request, please hand them to an usher.

Song "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"
Ken Medema/© 1973 Hope Publishing Company

Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord send your Spirit in this place;
Lord listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Sharing of Prayer Requests

Repeat Song (above)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

Repeat Song (above)

Song “Once Again”

Matt Redman/© 1995 Thankyou Music

Verse 1

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times, I’ve wondered at Your gift of
life,
And I’m in the place once again.
I’m in that place once again.

Chorus

Once again I look upon the cross where
You died.
I’m humbled by your mercy and I’m
broken inside.
Once again I thank You,
Once again I pour out my life

Verse 2

Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens where one day I’ll
bow.
But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
And I’m full of praise once again.
I’m full of praise once again.

Chorus

Bridge *(sing twice)*

Thank You for the cross. Thank You for
the cross.
Thank You for the cross, my Friend.

Chorus

Statement of Belief Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds.
But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with
your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

**FIRST LESSON
NUMBERS 21:4-9**

*“As life was eaking away, the people of Israel could look to the bronze snake
with a heart of faith and be spared from death.”*

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around
Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and
against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the
desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and
many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we
spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the
snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who
is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up
on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze
snake, he lived.

PSALM OF THE DAY

“Christ Is With Me” *Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 761*
Sung by Choir & Children’s Sunday School

Verse 1 We were buried with him into death,
That as he was raised by God’s glory,
We might walk in life made new by grace.
Having died with Christ, we shall live with him.

Refrain
Christ is with me ev’rywhere I go. Never to leave me, this I know.

Verse 2 I have now been grafted to the vine,
Drawing life from roots rich in mercy,
Bearing fruit as I abide in him:
Fruit forever fresh, glorifying God. **Refrain**

Verse 3 I have now been crucified with Christ.
I no longer live; Christ lives in me.
Now I live by faith in God’s own Son,
One who loved me so—gave himself for me. **Refrain**

Text: Gerald Patrick Coleman, b. 1953, alt. © 1992 Concordia Publishing House..

SECOND LESSON
JOHN 3:14-21

*“New life comes as a result of God’s love for the world.
We personally benefit through the gift of faith.”*

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.
¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son
into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever
believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned
already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is
the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light
because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not
come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the
truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been
done through God.”

“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” John Newton, John P. Reese, Edwin Othello Excell,
with Christ Tomlin, and Louie Giglio
“Amazing Love” Graham Kendrick

Verse 1
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Verse 2
And so they watched him die,
Despised, rejected;
But O, the blood he shed
Flowed for me.

Verse 2
‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Chorus
Verse 3
And now, this love of Christ,
Shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away,
Live again.

Chorus
My chains are gone. I’ve been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

Chorus
Chorus (*Amazing Grace- sing twice*)
My chains are gone. I’ve been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 1 (*Amazing Love*)
My Lord, what love is this,
that pays, so dearly
That I, the guilty one,
May go free.

Verse 3
The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Chorus
Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God, giv’n for me;
My debt He pays, and my death He dies,
That I might live,
That I might live.

PERKS OF THE PASSION:
WE HAVE NEW LIFE!

Ephesians 2:4-10
Pastor Mike Geiger