



Sunday, August 10, 2025
Friendship Sunday

Service Theme
The Tale of the Two Trees

The tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil planted in the Garden of looked alive but bore fruit that resulted in death. The Tree of the cross on which Jesus was crucified seemed dead but bears the fruit of everlasting life to all who look to it in faith.

576 Amazing Grace

CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-3): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
 Text and tune: Public domain

Order of Service – Service of the Word (Adapted)

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



1st Lesson

Genesis 3:1-20 (EHV)

The devil used the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil to tempt Adam and Eve into sin. But God promised a Saviour who would undo the devil's work.

3 Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, 'You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.' "

⁴The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die. ⁵In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. ⁸They heard the voice of the Lord God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The Lord God said to the woman, “What have you done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,

you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,
and you will crush his heel.

¹⁶To the woman he said:

I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing.

With painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
but he will rule over you.

¹⁷To Adam he said:

Because you listened to your wife’s voice
and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,

“You shall not eat from it,”
the soil is cursed on account of you.
You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your
life.

¹⁸Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for
you,
but you will eat the crops of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread
until you return to the soil,
for out of it you were taken.

For you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

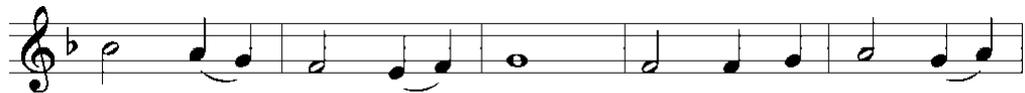
²⁰The man named his wife Eve because she would be the
mother of all the living.

407 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

CW 407



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con-tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 27:33-54 (EHV)

On the dead tree of the cross, Jesus offered up His life in payment for our sins so that, through faith in Him, we might have everlasting life.

³³They came to a place called Golgotha, which means “The place of the skull.” ³⁴They offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵After they had crucified him, they divided his clothing among themselves by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they posted the written charge against him: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads, ⁴⁰and saying, “You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, ⁴²“He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he’s the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. ⁵²Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. ⁵³Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus' resurrection and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

556 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

CW 556



1 All man-kind fell in Ad - am's fall; one com - mon
 2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps and us in
 3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, flow thoughts and
 4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came to bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
 dread - ful bond - age keeps; in guilt we draw our
 deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
 sin and woe and shame, to be our life, our



curse de - scends, and o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
 in - fant breath and reap its fruits of woe and death.
 dark - ened soul nor seeks nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
 light, our way, our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell
and, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
so by one Man, who took our place,
we all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,
new light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend
until we reach our journey's end.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; (sts. 1–4, 6): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text & Theme

Romans 5:12, 18-19 EHV

The Tale of Two Men

- 1) *Death came to all through Adam's sin.*
- 2) *Life is offered to all through Jesus' obedience.*

¹²So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned...¹⁸So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people.¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

Apostles' 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.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.

Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Blessing

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

924 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

CW 924



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace
- 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your Word
- 3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
- 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your Word.

- 5 Abide with your protection
among us, Lord, our strength,
lest world and Satan fell us
and overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
among us with your love;
grant steadfastness and help us
to reach our home above.

Announcements

Church Cleaners

August 17 – Simon // August 24 – Matthew

St. Paul's "Un-sale" items needed

Time to pull out your unused household items! Every year, St. Paul has an "unsale" for the college students. They are looking for household furniture and kitchen items. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it here in the next couple of weeks. The members of the evangelism committee will take all the donations to St. Paul on the appropriate weekend. Thank you for your support!

Regular Worship Schedule - September 7th

Our regular worship schedule will begin in a month on September 7th. More information will come as we get closer to that date.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (10) 9:30 am *Friendship Sunday*
11:00 am *Church Picnic*

Pastor will be gone from August 13-18.

Su (17) 9:30 am **Layed Worship with Communion**
3:00 pm **Pastor Digman in Poltimore**

Tu (19) 6:00 pm Elders Meeting
7:00 pm Council Meeting

We (20) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)

Th (21) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (22) 4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship

Su (24) 9:30 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Evangelism Meeting*



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