

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.



"Christ The King" Sunday

NOVEMBER 23, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**YEAR OF JUBILEE:
A RISEN CHRIST RULES OVER ALL!**

Good morning!

This morning we begin a five week emphasis on the Year of Jubilee. This Old Testament celebration which happened every 50 years marked the return of land to its owners and the forgiving of debts to those enslaved to pay it off. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in its 2007 Convention resolved to celebrate a Year of Jubilee from July 2008 to July 2009 to focus on the mission of God's Church and to encourage the paying off of \$22.4 million in debt to free up over \$2 each year to go towards mission work around the world. Starting today with the celebrating of Christ as King we will mark the next 4 weeks with special emphases to focus on the reasons we have to be jubilant because of our Savior Jesus. May God bless our time of worship this morning!

Opening Song "You are Worthy of My Praise"
Blue Insert

Verse 1
I will worship, (I will worship)
With all of my heart, (With all of my heart)
I will praise You, (I will praise You)
With all of my strength, (With all my strength)
I will seek You, (I will seek You)
All of my days, (All of my days)
And I will follow, (I will follow)
All of Your ways, (All Your ways)

Chorus
I will give You all my worship,
I will give You all my praise.
You alone I long to worship,
You alone are worthy of my praise.

Closing Hymn "Days of Elijah"
White Insert

Verse 1 (Band only)

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

Chorus (All sing)

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the Year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

Verse 2 (Band only)

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.

Chorus (sing 3 times)

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: The Lord God Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! Amen.

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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.
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BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, since we exist as a Christian congregation to serve the Triune God by joyfully proclaiming the truth of the Word and Christ's gift of salvation for all people, let us go from this place to work together to

- † nurture the faith of all believers
- † encourage personal growth in the Word
- † equip members to share the Gospel with all people.

As we carry out the mission of our church, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

C: (spoken) Amen.

Verse 2

I will bow down, (I will bow down)
Hail You as King, (Hail You as King)
I will serve You, (I will serve You)
Give You everything, (Give You everything)
I will lift up, (I will lift up)
My eyes to Your throne, (My eyes to Your throne)
And I will trust You, (I will trust You)
I will trust You alone, (I'll trust You alone)

Repeat Chorus twice

Song "Celebrate the Lord of Love"
Blue Insert

Chorus

Trade your heavy heart for a heart of joy;
Celebrate what God has done.
Join the song of praise as we gather here;
Celebrate the Lord of Love.
Jesus is our Lord; He is reigning here.
We declare, "His kingdom's come."
Darkness has to flee in His holy light;
Celebrate the Lord of Love.

Verse

All creation sings; hear the ocean roar.
Let the earth proclaim that Christ is Lord.

Chorus

Verse

Chorus

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends in Christ:

This service invites us to ponder the blessings God has given us and those he will bring us through a Year of Jubilee. The focus is not merely on us, on WELS, but on the mission God has given us and thus on the people of his world whom we want to serve. We know all too well that we have failed to carry out this mission as God requires. We have not always supported God's mission as we could. As we confess our sins, I invite you to reflect on times when you have disappointed our Lord and neglected the mission he has given us.

Lord, have mercy on us, come and heal our land.
Cleanse with Your fire, heal with Your touch.
Humbly we bow and call upon You now.
O Lord, have mercy on us. O Lord, have mercy on us.

M: Let us repent of our sins, rejoice in the comfort of God’s abundant pardon,
and recommit ourselves to the mission he entrusts to us.

For apathy in our commitment to your mission.

C: *(sung)* **O Lord, have mercy on us. O Lord, have mercy on us**

M: For taking your precious Word and Sacraments for granted.

C: *(sung)* **O Lord, have mercy on us. O Lord, have mercy on us**

M: For failure to show our thankfulness by the priorities we set in our lives.

C: *(sung)* **O Lord, have mercy on us. O Lord, have mercy on us**

Silence for reflection

M: Holy and merciful Father,

C: **I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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

M: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.**

M: You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.

C: **Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!**

M: You are worthy, O Christ our King, to receive honor and glory and praise because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased us for God. From every tribe and language and people and nation, you have called us into your kingdom and have made us priests to serve you, our God and Father.

C: **Help us live as royal priests.**

M: We give thanks to you, O Christ our Shepherd-King, because you have searched for us and found us. Lead us to the green pastures and quiet waters of your saving love, so that we may enjoy peace and comfort for our souls.

C: **Heal our hearts when they are broken with sin and guilt. Strengthen us when we are weak.**

M: We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. Come with your mighty power to break and defeat every evil plan and purpose of the devil, of the ungodly influences and ideas of the world, and of our own sinful nature. Use your power to calm the unrest among nations and peoples so that your kingdom may spread and grow.

C: **Strengthen our confidence in knowing that your kingdom will never be destroyed.**

M: O Christ our King, you have supremacy over all. You will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity. You have destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Reign in our hearts that we may serve you more faithfully and speak more boldly to others of your saving love.

C: **Praise be to the Lord God, who alone does marvelous deeds. May the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Continued on next page

STAND

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.

BE SEATED

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

Year of Jubilee Video

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.

Sharing of Prayer Requests

Song of Praise “Celebrate the Lord of Love”
(Chorus only) *Blue Insert*

Trade your heavy heart for a heart of joy;
Celebrate what God has done.
Join the song of praise as we gather here;
Celebrate the Lord of Love.
Jesus is our Lord; He is reigning here.
We declare, “His kingdom’s come.”
Darkness has to flee in His holy light;
Celebrate the Lord of Love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Loving Savior, the treasure of your mercy has turned our lives from sin, despair, and death into a jubilee of forgiveness and joy. Empower us by your great love to share this jubilee so that many more people might know your mercy and praise your name. We pray to you for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

EXODUS 34:11-16, 23-24

*“When his earthly kings failed to rule with God’s heart,
he promised one who would rule with justice.”*

11 Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 12 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. 13 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. 14 Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

15 "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. 16 And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

Continued on next page

23 Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD, the God of Israel. 24 I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up three times each year to appear before the LORD your God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

“Majesty” *Tree of Life Song Book*

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from His throne, unto His own;
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

**SECOND LESSON
MATTHEW 27:27-31**

“Christ did not have the appearance of a king, nor was treated as one, but he is.”

27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Hymn “Crown Him With Many Crowns”
Christian Worship Hymn 341

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love -- Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns For he is King of all.

**YEAR OF JUBILEE:
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1 Corinthians 15:20-24
Pastor Mike Geiger