



## Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer

### Introduction

This Sunday, blessings and curses abound. They are directed to all of us who want to find our place in a community of faith rooted in Christ.

### Opening Prayer

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

Jeremiah 17

<sup>5</sup>...Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals...

<sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert, ...

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, ...

<sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water,...

When does your life feel like a shrub in the desert and a tree planted by water? Why?

1 Corinthians 15

<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What impact does eternal life have on your everyday life?

Luke 6

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all over the region.

Why is it important that Jesus stand on a level place when talking to the people?

### Reflection for the Day

*Be a Tree*

We are in the midst of the world's sixth extinction event, and because of the relentless burning of fossil fuels, our planet keeps breaking records for heat. In these precarious times, many of us feel scared, stressed or even numb, to climate change.

Today's reading from Jeremiah provides a beautiful image for resilience. The image is a tree. Books like *The Hidden Life of Trees* tell us that trees' root systems communicate with each other, sharing resources and information.

That's true for us too. Sinking roots deep into the love of God known in Christ, we discover that everything is connected. What we do here and now has an impact somewhere else in the future. Tapping into our identity as beloved children of God, we receive fresh energy for life.

Up we rise like trees, offering our gifts to each other and the world: a kind word or action, our resolve to take part in the healing of creation. Healing a creation that is not ours to waste but ours to preserve for the sake of future generations. So, be a tree planted by water. Grow in your faith in God and in your love for others who have a right to cherish the wonder of this world we call Earth.

**Hymn of the Day** For the Beauty of the Earth

**Apostle's Creed**

**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 to the living,  
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.**

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Closing Prayer**

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**Dismissal**

**Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**