



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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OUR REDEEMER'S VOICE AUGUST 2019

A Lesson from the Garden

It is hard to miss the close connection to nature in the Bible. It begins in the first chapter with God creating ... well, nature. It continues in chapter two with God planting a garden (Genesis 2:8). In Genesis 3 we read about the Fall of humanity. Part of the curse that followed that lamentable event fell upon nature (Genesis 3:17-19). Most of the patriarchs seem to have some connection with nature: Noah planted a vineyard (Genesis 9:20); Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all shepherds (Genesis 46:32); Moses also was a shepherd during his exile (Exodus 3:1). The Promised Land was described in terms of nature—a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). When the spies examined the land, part of their description was about the natural abundance of the land (Numbers 13:26-27). In the book of Leviticus, regulations are given for the land (Leviticus 19:9-10; 25). There are also many times when nature is used as a way for God to make his point: Jeremiah told the exiles to plant gardens (Jeremiah 29:5); Amos, in speaking of the coming restoration, says the people, in part, will plant vineyards and make gardens (Amos 9:14).



Of course, Jesus also used lots of nature metaphors. He once compared the Kingdom of God to planting a mustard seed in a garden (Matthew 13:32). Gardening or farming is behind Paul's words about the Gospel when he wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). We know that Jesus prayed in a garden on the night he was betrayed, and was buried in a tomb that was located in a garden (Matthew 36:36; John 19:41). We also know that heaven is sometimes described in terms of nature, both as peace between animals that are natural enemies, and as a lush garden (Isaiah 11:6; 65:25; Revelation 22:2).



So, when we at Our Redeemer partnered with our community to develop our neighborhood garden, one can easily say there is ample biblical support for the idea. Gardens can be a wonderful way to see God and understand our spiritual life. One example comes from the parable where Jesus said a sower went out to sow his seed (Matthew 13:3-9). In the parable, much of the seed fell on poor soil. However, the seed that fell on good soil produced in abundance. The seed is the word of God (Matthew 13:19). We worked hard to prepare the ground in which we planted our garden, adding mulch and compost, tilling the ground, and so forth. We wanted our seed to fall on good soil. The results are on display for all to see!

More is going on here, though, besides physical plants. Through this effort we are building bridges with our community. This then provides opportunities to share our faith in Jesus. For example, just the other day I was taking a walk through the church's neighborhood. I spoke with a man who was out doing some yard work. I brought up our garden and asked if he had seen it. One thing led to another and he admitted he hadn't been in a church since the day he was married. Needless to say, I suggested it was about time for him to give it another try and invited him to join us on Sunday. Now, I have no idea if he will come, but the garden provided a friendly topic that allowed me to issue the invitation.

All the work we do with our neighbors in our garden can be thought of as putting mulch and whatnot in the garden. We still have to plant the seed of the Gospel, but we want to do all we can to ensure it will take root. We hope you enjoy the garden and hope it can provide us all with a point of reference to the Kingdom of God.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor

Digging In The Nicene Creed Second Article, Part 3



And [I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

Last month we began looking at the word “one” in reference to the “one Lord Jesus Christ.” We saw how the Bible treats Jesus as being both fully divine and fully human, while maintaining that he is not divided or split, but one single being. This is a miracle without any exact mundane parallel. This happens in a way that maintains the distinction between the divine and human and yet has full communion of attributes between the divine and human. So there are two natures yet only one Jesus Christ. So Jesus is truly our brother, according to his human nature, and our Lord, according to his divine nature. Yet, because of the communication of attributes, Thomas can call Jesus “my God” (John 20:28) while Paul can call him a “man” (1 Timothy 2:5). What God can do, Jesus Christ can do. What a human can do, Jesus Christ can do. So, he is the very source of life (John 1:4). In the person of Jesus Christ, the omniscient God can grow in knowledge (Luke 2:52). Yet the disciples were also correct when they said Jesus knew all things (John 19:30).

As I said, there is no exact mundane parallel to the two natures in Jesus. However there are a few illustrations that, while limited and therefore you don’t want to push them too far, still might help us grasp the idea. The first, and perhaps the most obvious, is you. You have both a body and a soul. Where the body goes, so does the soul. You have two natures, so to speak. One nature is physical, flesh; the other nature is spiritual, a soul. Of course, for us, these two “natures” comprise one human being. Jesus also had his human spiritual nature. He had to have it in order to be fully human. It is part of the human half of the divine/human being named Jesus. Nonetheless, the way the soul and the body form one being can give us an idea of how the divine and human natures of Jesus form one unique being.

Another analogy is light traveling through a piece of glass. When this happens, everywhere there is glass there is light. You might say that the light is hard and the glass is bright. Again, it is an imperfect analogy. First the connection between light and glass is temporary while the union between divine and human in Jesus is a complete and permanent union. We might also observe that there is light apart from the glass so there are some attributes concerning light that the glass does not share. However, with Jesus, whatever you can say about God you can also say about Jesus and whatever you can say about human nature you can say about Jesus.



This brings up an important point about people. Jesus was fully human, yet without sin. Therefore, sin is not of the essence of what it means to be human. Sin is a corruption of human nature. Sin is a contaminant of human nature. Because we are all fallen humans, it seems like sin is a natural part of who we are, but it isn’t. At the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day, we will be physically raised but the sin will stay in the ground. We will finally be all that God designed us to be.

A third analogy that is sometimes used is a red hot iron fireplace poker. You put one in the fireplace and let it heat up. When you pull the iron out of the fire, it shares attributes of the fire, like being able to burn things. The fire also shares attributes of the iron, like being hard. Once again, the analogy is imperfect. The communication of attributes is all too temporary. Not to mention that certain attributes are not shared. For example, you can pass your hand through a flame but you can’t pass your hand through a fireplace poker. Still, the analogy helps to some extent.

So we believe in the one, completely unique being, Jesus Christ. He is fully God and fully man, yet one being.

Next month we will move on to the phrase “Lord Jesus Christ.” Until then, “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen.



1 Corinthians 1:18 - *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

Have you noticed, people can say and do foolish things?

Not so long ago, in South Dakota, the state highway department got a call from a rancher who wanted them to remove the deer crossing signs on the road that went by his house. His thinking was too many deer were being hit by cars, and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

Have you noticed, people can say and do foolish things?

Here's one from a friend-pastor who swears it's true. He and his wife were picking up their new car at the dealership. Somewhat embarrassed, the salesman said their keys had been locked in the vehicle by accident. They went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As they watched from the passenger's side, my friend instinctively tried the door handle and discovered it was open. "Hey!" he announced to the technician, "It's open!"

Move the deer crossing to where there's less traffic

"I know," answered the young man. "I already got that side."

Now, up to this point in our devotion, I've been sharing some silly, true stories. And while I'm sure you would never do such things, I'm equally sure you've still managed to do your share. I'm sure if I asked your children, your spouse, your parents, or your best friends, they would be more than glad to share a foolish story or two about you.

Most of the time our silliness amounts to nothing more than a bit of embarrassment. But if you are foolish about things which stop you from seeing the Savior, it can be downright damning.

And it is at the end of that last line some people stop listening.

Many people don't want to hear about their need for Jesus. Most certainly, evil doesn't want salvation to reach them, reclaim them, recycle, and inspire them. For these folks, any time someone speaks God's message of Christ's cross to them it seems like foolishness.

Truly, if someone thinks the cross is foolishness, it is because he doesn't understand what God wanted to happen there. It is because they do not understand what God was trying to accomplish. They are not seeing the value of the healing medicine which God is giving.

I cannot tell how the cross touches you today. For that reason, I would like to say it was on Jesus' cross that God repaired that which we cannot restore. On the cross, God's Son built a bridge over sin's gulf which separated us from the Creator. On the cross, the Savior shows that no matter what you have done, no matter how bad you have been, no matter how long you have lived in your transgression, God loves you and is willing to do all which is needed to save you.



On the cross, in that place of earthly suffering, God offered spiritual healing. On the cross, in the place of physical death, God showed us the pathway to life. On the cross, God's sinless Son shed His blood as the price that had to be paid to buy us back from sin, Satan, death. On the cross, Jesus' precious blood becomes the Father's heaven-sent

cure for all the illnesses which tear at your soul, your mind, your peace, your hope, and heaven.

Which is why I pray you will see the cross for what it is: one of God's greatest gifts to you.

Pastor Ken Klaus

Arlen D. Besel – Ambassador



The Gospel of Luke shares the parable of the rich fool and then Jesus encourages the disciples to place their trust in Him and God who will provide for all their needs. And He warns that faith in Him will divide people based on whether they follow Him.

His final warning is that the way of faith is not an easy path for, as He stated; "Narrow is the door that leads to Him and many will fail to find it."

In the Epistle lessons we are first reminded that the life of the Christian is transformed and shown by a godly lifestyle and gifts of the Spirit.

From Hebrews, we are told that faith is *the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*. The writer goes on to illustrate the faith of the early patriarchs as examples. He uses Abel, Enoch, Noah, and finally Abraham for this lesson.

This brings us to see Christ as our example who was so severely rejected and crucified. The warning goes on to tell us that the sin of apostasy will come to challenge our faith.

During this part of Pentecost the Old Testament lessons will share some words from Ecclesiastes and then the covenants, beginning with the promise to Abraham that he would have an heir that will be a blessing to all, giving Abraham descendants "as numerous as the stars," which is a reference to the Church created by grace through faith in Jesus..

In Jeremiah the Lord warns of false prophets who will mislead the people.

The portion of Isaiah tells how God is glorified by gathering of the nation Israel and believing Gentiles who seek Him. Already in the Old Testament we have word of the coming salvation of the Gentiles which becomes clear in the events following Pentecost.

Arlen D. Besel– Worship



We Need You!

There are so many talented & dedicated people in this worship family! Here are 10 MORE ways you can serve God in this place: 1) help dispose of unwanted furniture/large items by paying for a service to remove them or getting a group together & removing them yourselves; 2) clean the parking lot or walkways of debris; 3) stay after church & speak with visitors; 4) bring a baked good for a church meeting; 5) have a Bible study in your home; 6) visit the homebound; 7) straighten up the overflow room & resource center; 8) help improve The ORCHARD by helping with a building/construction project or weeding/composting; 9) volunteer to sing a solo/duet/choir piece; 10) pray for the members of this congregation

Sunday School

The Sunday School class for our children will take a summer break until September.

The ORCHARD Update

All of the paperwork has been submitted for our 3rd grant! We are so thankful for the 200+ volunteer hours that have gone into making The ORCHARD such a success in its 1st season!! Rick Judd has donated some plastic pallets for use for creating a larger composting area—thanks, Rick; Robin has donated a 3rd rain barrel—thanks, Robin!

We will meet on Monday evening 7/29, 6:30ish to construct a larger compost area & build a produce stand. Please come & bring building materials & tools!!



Also, we have an opportunity to visit other community gardens that have received grant monies; the date is 8/24 (time TBD); the tour will last 2-3 hours. If you are interested in going on this tour, let Kitty know ASAP. Thanks.

Bulletin & Newsletter Information Dates

Please have all information for the bulletin into the office no later than Tuesday of each week. Newsletter info is due no later than the 20th of each month to ensure its inclusion. Thanks!

Church Flowers

To date, no one has signed up for altar flowers for the entire month of September, except the last Sunday. We also need flowers for 11/10 & 12/8. Please consider signing up for flowers to beautify our sanctuary; if you don't want to keep the flowers, someone will take them to our homebound. Thanks.



Altar Guild

We need people to help with communion setup & takedown; it is not a difficult job, but it is a very important one. Bonnie or Robin or Carla will be happy to show you what needs to be done. Speak with them today & let them know that you are happy to serve Jesus & His Church in this way.

LWML News

Our next Lutheran Women's Missionary League meeting is Saturday, 8/17, 11:00 am. We will enjoy lunch together & plan our activities & missions for the coming year & look over our bylaws. Please let Kathy O'Malley know that you are attending & what lunch item you will bring to share.

We collect mite money the 1st Sunday of each month so save your coins & dollars & checks! The large Mite Box on the counter in the narthex is where you can place your monetary gifts.



Mercy Basket

Please remember to put something in the Mercy Basket (placed on the table just outside the sanctuary doors); those in need will appreciate your kindheartedness.

August Birthdays

3	Mark Johnston
6	Pastor Rickert
11	Kevin Kruelle
18	Milton Steltz, Jr.
20	Bonnie Johnston
24	Lian Kline
26	Gary Bates
27	Loren Kline



Anniversaries

7	A. K. & Helga Kissell
14	Kevin & Meghan Gerzevske

If we missed your special day, please call or email the church office with your info so we can celebrate with you! (302) 737-6176; secretary.orlcde@outlook.com

AUGUST BIBLE READINGS

1 Habakkuk 3:2-19
2 Chronicles 1-3

2 Psalm 57
2 Chronicles 4-6

3 Psalm 58
2 Chronicles 7-9

4 Psalm 59
2 Chronicles 10-12

5 Psalm 60
2 Chronicles 13-15

6 Psalm 61
2 Chronicles 16-18

7 Psalm 62
2 Chronicles 19-21

8 Psalm 63
2 Chronicles 22-24

9 Psalm 64
2 Chronicles 25-27

10 Psalm 65
2 Chronicles 28-30

11 Psalm 66
2 Chronicles 31-33

12 Psalm 67
2 Chronicles 34-36

13 Psalm 68
Ezra 1-5

14 Psalm 69
Ezra 6-10

15 Psalm 70
Nehemiah 1-3

16 Psalm 71
Nehemiah 4-6

17 Psalm 72
Nehemiah 7-9

18 Psalm 73
Nehemiah 10-13

19 Psalm 74
Esther 1-3

20 Psalm 75
Esther 4-6

21 Psalm 76
Esther 7-10

22 Psalm 77
Job 1-3

23 Psalm 78
Job 4-6

24 Psalm 79
Job 7-9

25 Psalm 80
Job 10-12

26 Psalm 81
Job 13-15

27 Psalm 82
Job 16-18

28 Psalm 83
Job 19-21

29 Psalm 84
Job 22-24

30 Psalm 85
Job 25-27

31 Habakkuk 3:2-19
Job 28-30

