

Elim Lutheran Church  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
A Lenten Service of Word and Prayer



*A man had a fig tree planted in  
his vineyard; and he came  
looking for fruit on it ...*

LUKE 13:6, NRSV

## Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

- 1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.
- 2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit <https://www.spselca.net/>



### GREETING

**Pastor:** The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Reader:** O God,

**All:** **rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love,  
you raise us up from sin and death  
and make us alive together with Christ.**

**Write your word upon our hearts  
and restore in us the image of your love that,  
by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ,  
through whom we pray. Amen.**

### SILENCE



# SONG: SPIRIT OF CHRIST JESUS

## Ostinato Chorale

The musical score is written for a treble and bass staff in 2/4 time. The melody is in B-flat major. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) followed by a dotted quarter note (C5) and a quarter note (Bb4). The bass staff has a triplet of eighth notes (G3, A3, Bb3) followed by a dotted quarter note (C4) and a quarter note (Bb3). The lyrics are: *Spir-it of Christ Je - sus, Spir-it of lov - ing kind - ness, con -*

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note (C5), a quarter note (Bb4), and a quarter note (A4). The bass staff has a dotted quarter note (C4), a quarter note (Bb3), and a quarter note (A3). The lyrics are: *firm your heart and keep it; con - firm your heart and keep it.*

Text: Taizé Community, 1991  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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## **GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9**

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

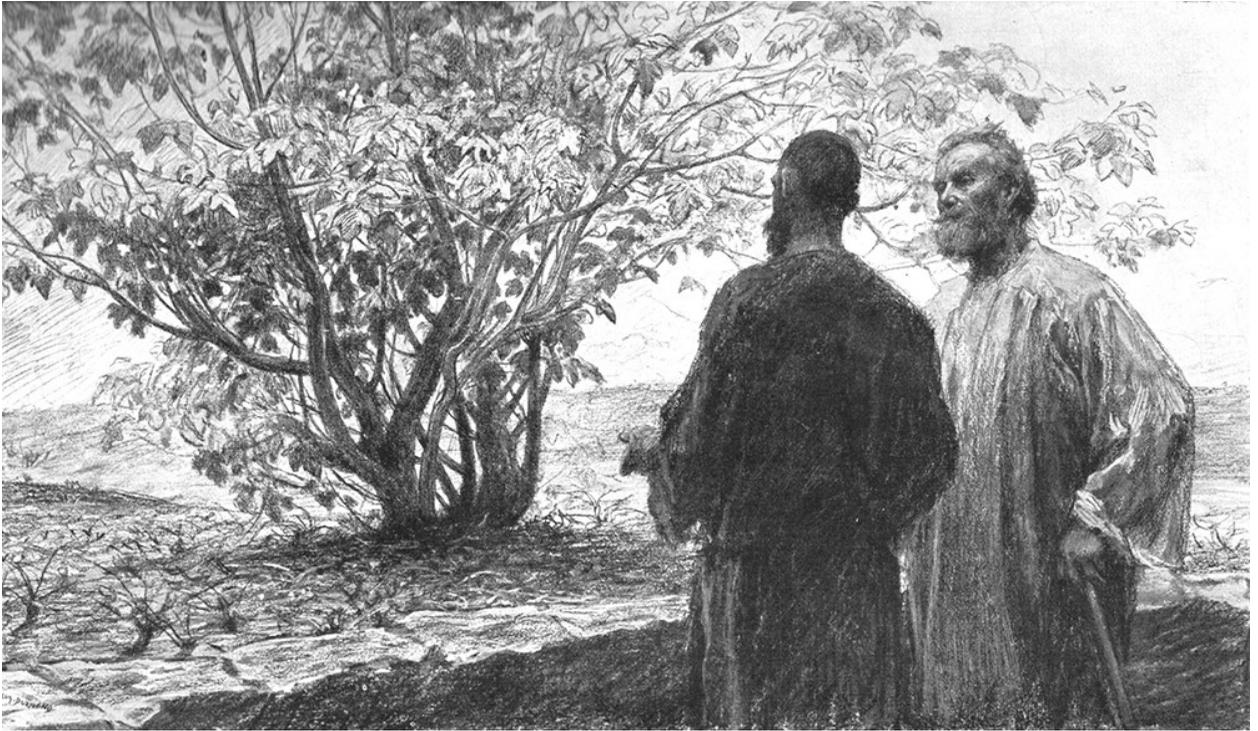
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

## VISIO DIVINA - LUKE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE



Swiss artist Eugène Burnand 1850-1921 | The Barren Fig Tree

- Before approaching the image, prepare yourself for prayer. You may wish to close your eyes and ask for God to guide your sight and reflection.
- Look at the image as a whole. What do you notice? What are you drawn to or repulsed by? Where might you locate yourself in the image? Where do you locate God?
- What is your relationship to what you see here? How does it relate to your life right now?
- Where is God's faithfulness in this image? Where are you drawn to emulate this faithfulness?
- Reflect once again on the image as a whole, and close your prayer by thanking God for the divine faithfulness you see in your life.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Pastor:** God of all compassion,

**All:** gather our prayers in your mercy

and grant to us what you know we need,

that we may walk in the life and the peace of your Spirit,

through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

**Amen.**

## WEEK 3 – BIDDING PRAYER

After a bid is introduced, silence is observed for individual prayer. Each petition will close with the sung response below.

*Response after each petition:*



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

Text and music: Ralph C. Sappington, b. 1952  
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**Pastor:** Siblings in Christ, let us pray for creation . . .

Let us pray for the nations, including our own . . .

Let us pray for the places we live, our communities and neighborhoods . . .

Let us pray for our enemies, for everyone with whom we are angry . . .

Let us pray for all who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit . . .

Let us pray for our loved ones, families, and friends . . .

Let us pray for our own needs and weaknesses . . .

All these prayers we offer to you, O God of boundless compassion, trusting you to care for what we have named aloud or in our hearts.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BLESSING

*Response after blessing: Amen*

## SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

### Next Mid-Week Service:

**March 30, Week 4 - Forgiveness**

**Read Ahead:** Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The prodigal son



Thank you to the following people  
for contributing to today's service:

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Interim Pastor .....Officiant  
Lauren Haile ..... Music Director  
Open at time of printing ..... Choir Members  
Open at time of printing ..... Musicians  
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