

St. Johns Lutheran Church



The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (The Forbidden Tree)

St. Johns Lutheran Church
Advent Midweek 1

St. Louis, Missouri
November 30th, 2022

A Tale of Trees from Death to Life

Advent 1 The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
(Tree of Disobedience and it's Curse)

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *(AS WE LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

All who wait for Jesus to return pray,
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN O Sing of Christ LSB 362 st. 1-2

**O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.**

**What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.**

ADVENT LITANY

O God, our Father, You made a perfect and beautiful world. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed you by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, sin and its curse corrupted the earth. Like them, we

turn away from doing your will and so incur the curse of death.
Turn us back to you to repent of our disobedience.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Heavenly Father, in your mercy and love you promised us a savior from sin's curse. Thank you for establishing the family of Abraham, of Jesse and David, of Joseph and Mary to bring forth that savior, and thank you for grafting us into your family tree.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty Lord, you were welcomed with palm branches and Hosannas when you entered Jerusalem. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we not only praise you with our lips, but also honor you with our lives.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Dear Jesus, You are the light of the world that no darkness can put out. As we light candles of prophecy and proclamation this season, let the light of your love shine on us.

Make us your lights that we may shine the good news of your forgiveness on all we meet.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Lord Jesus, as we remember your birth in Bethlehem, remind us that you came because of our sin. In your great love for us, you endured humility and shame, dreadful suffering, and death on the tree of the cross. In dying, you paid for our forgiveness, and in rising, you opened the kingdom of heaven to us. Help us to put our trust in your saving grace.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you created us, redeemed us, and made us Your own people. Keep us faithful to You all the days of our lives, that we may eat the fruit of the tree of life in Heaven and give You all thanks and praise forever.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

The Lord has had mercy and has come to us. When we repent of our sins, He covers them with Jesus' righteousness.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

READING *Genesis 2:8-9 (trees of Life/Knowledge in Garden of Eden)*

⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Genesis 2:15-17 (man told not to eat of the tree)*

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Genesis 3:1-19 (fall into sin and subsequent curses)*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among

the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” ¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall *LSB* 562 St. 1,3,4,5

**All Mankind fell in Adams’s fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God’s wrath impends.**

**From hearts depraved, to evil prone,
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God’s image lost, the darkened soul
Seeks not nor finds its heav’nly goal.**

**But Christ, the second Adam,
Came to bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.**

**As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.**

HOMILY

**OFFERING AND TREE DECORATIONS BROUGHT
FORWARD** *Choir sings: LSB 561 The Tree of Life*

PRAYERS

As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations,
peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households,
and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide us to hear the voice of God in His Word when we struggle to
believe, as did Zechariah. Lift us up by the hope that comes only in
Christ and overcome our doubts. Humble us before You, that we
may gratefully receive whatever You provide.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ
will return and guide us to springs of living water and wipe away
every tear from our eyes. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past.
Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done
wrong. Hold our loved ones close to Your heart. Bless the work
that we do as we use the talents and gifts You entrust to us.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ. And let us rejoice in the fellowship of all the saints, entrusting ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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 ever. Amen.

NEPALESE SONG

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

In the Shattered Bliss of Eden

LSB 572 st. 1-3

In the shattered bliss of Eden

Dawned the day of sacrifice,

As our primal parents shuddered

Sin had caused this dreadful price!

Faith embarked with this discernment:

**Only God can cover sin,
As He took their leafy garments
And He clothed their shame with skin.**

**Days and months and years unfolding
Clearly showed what sin had wrought:
Fallen Adam's children learning
Lessons fallen parents taught.
All these sacrificial off'rings
Crested as a crimson flood:
Patriarchs and priests atoning
For their sins with cleansing blood.**

**What these sacrifices promised
From a God who sought to bless,
Came at last a second Adam
Priest and King of Righteousness:
Son of God, incarnate Savior,
Son of Man, both Christ and Lord,
Who in naked shame would offer
On the cross His blood outpoured.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt

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