

"AND I WILL PUT ENMITY
BETWEEN YOU
AND THE WOMAN,
AND BETWEEN
YOUR SEED
AND HER SEED;
HE SHALL BRUISE
YOUR HEAD,
AND YOU SHALL
BRUISE HIS HEEL."

Genesis 3:15, NKJV



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As We Gather

In the season of Advent, we reflect on God's promise to redeem a broken world. Today, we journey back to the Garden of Eden, where the peace of creation was shattered by sin. Yet, even in the darkness of rebellion, God proclaimed hope through the promise of a Savior. As we worship, we remember that this promise finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, whose birth, death, and resurrection restore what was lost. Let us prepare our hearts to receive anew the grace and truth of our God, who transforms tragedy into triumph through His steadfast love.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

68 – The Advent of Our King

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in Christ, as we gather in this Advent season, we recall the rebellion of Adam and Eve in the garden. Under the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they disobeyed the Lord's command, bringing sin and death into the world. We, too, have eaten of the fruit of rebellion, following our own desires rather than God's will. Let us confess our sins to God, seeking His mercy and the forgiveness promised through His Son.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Like our first parents, we have listened to the voice of temptation and turned from Your Word. We have trusted in ourselves instead of in Your promises and have sought life apart from You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born to redeem us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may walk in Your ways and bear the fruit of repentance to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P God did not abandon Adam and Eve to their rebellion, but in His mercy, He promised a Savior who would crush the serpent's head. In the fullness of time, that Savior, Jesus Christ, came to bear the curse of sin on the tree of the cross. By His death and resurrection, He has undone the curse and restored life. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you. And in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:7-13

⁷ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 1

- P** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
C **Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;**
P But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
C **And in His law he meditates day and night.**
P He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water,
C **That brings forth its fruit in its season,**
P Whose leaf also shall not wither;
C **And whatever he does shall prosper.**
P The ungodly are not so,
C **But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.**
P Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
C **Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**
P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C **But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:4-10

⁴ Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the



Confession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

705 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Sermon Text

Genesis 3:1-15

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day 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, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹² Then the man said,

“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”



Sermon

The Tree of Rebellion

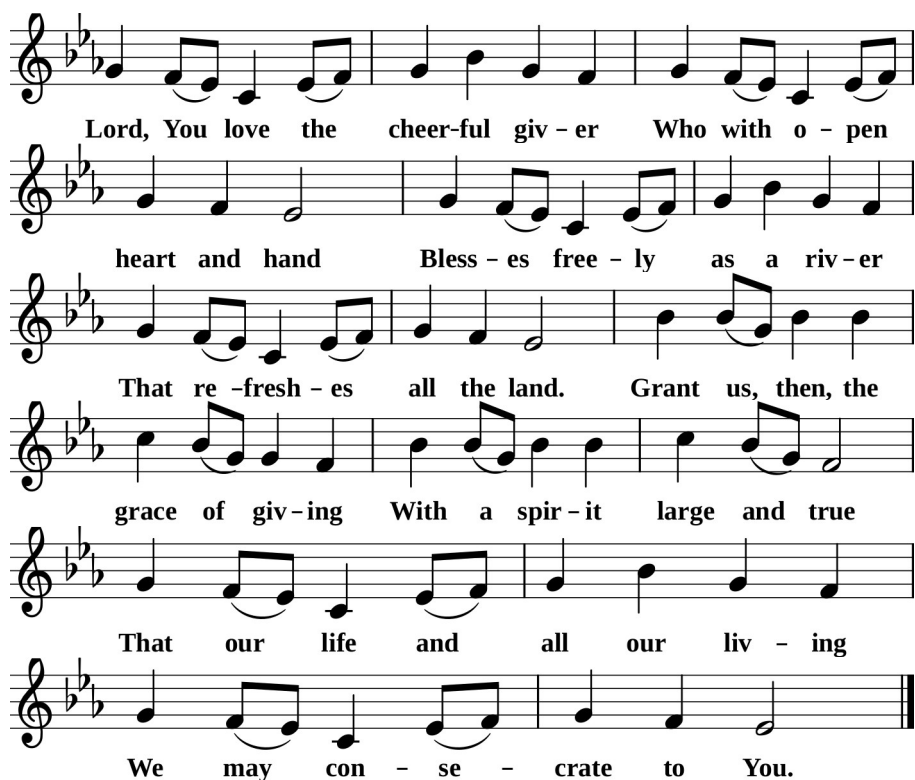
Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv-er Who with o-pen
heart and hand Bless-es free-ly as a riv-er
That re-fresh-es all the land. Grant us, then, the
grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true
That our life and all our liv-ing
We may con-se-crate to You.

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

66 – Hark the Glad sound! The Savior Comes

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