

Midweek Advent Service

December 2, 2020



As We Gather

“Very good.” These are the words used in Genesis 1 to describe what God sees as He looks over everything that He has just made. All of creation, including humanity, is perfect and just as God intended it to be. Yet, that perfection does not last long. With Adam and Eve’s disobedience of God’s command to not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin enters the world. What was once “very good” is now fallen, imperfect, and not-so-good. Yet, already in Genesis 3:15, the Lord promises One who will save. Eve’s offspring, Jesus, will bring redemption by another tree—the tree of the cross. Through His birth, life, death, resurrection, and return, all creation will be restored and will again be “very good”!

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 11:1; Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:19

- P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
C **and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**
P I will put enmity between you and the woman,
C **and between your offspring and her offspring;**
P He shall bruise your head,
C **and you shall bruise His heel.**
P For as by the one man’s disobedience
C **the many were made sinners,**
P so by the one man’s obedience
C **the many will be made righteous.**

Service of Light

- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P All those who await His appearance pray:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P The whole creation pleads:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath and/or on the altar are lighted.

891 O Light Whose Splendor

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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Prayer of the Day

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who had mercy on Adam and Eve after they disobeyed Your loving command in the Garden of Eden, promising a second greater Adam who is the light of the world. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

First Reading

Romans 5:12–21

P A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as

by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Genesis 1:27; 3:8–15

P A reading from Genesis, the first and third chapters.

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ⁸And 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵I 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Litany

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [names of synodical and district presidents], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [name of president or monarch], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Alleluia.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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.**

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!

- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
 A branch from David's line,
 A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
 The fruit of God's design.
- 3 As banner of God's love unfurled,
 Christ came to suffer loss,
 That by His death a dying world
 Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
 Lost Paradise restore;
 Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
 Come, open heaven's door.

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Sermon "Jesus the Seed of Jesse's Tree" Genesis 1:27, 3:8-15

Prayer

- P** Lord 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Blessing

- P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
C **and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C **Amen.**

877 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

sts. 1, 4

- 1 God, who made the earth and heaven,
 Darkness and light:
 You the day for work have given,
 For rest the night.
 May Your angel guards defend us,
 Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
 Holy dreams and hopes attend us
 All through the night.
- △ 4 Holy Father, throned in heaven,
 All-holy Son,
 Holy Spirit, freely given,
 Blest Three in One:
 Grant us grace, we now implore You,
 Till we lay our crowns before You
 And in worthier strains adore You
 While ages run.

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