

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 3 - June 13, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #596 - *“Let Me Be Yours Forever”***

**Let me be yours forever,  
My faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake you never  
Nor wander from your Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver  
But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace and favor  
Your holy name I'll bless.**

**Lord Jesus, my salvation,  
My light, my life divine,  
My only consolation,  
To you I all resign,  
For you have dearly bought me  
With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since you have sought me,  
Eternal life obtain.**

**O gracious Holy Spirit,  
My comforter and guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit  
I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing  
Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me your constant blessing  
And grant a Christian death.**

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins

to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my 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.**

### **First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15**

They heard the voice of the Lord God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. The Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me - she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." The Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. (EHV)

### **Psalm 51a**

**Refrain: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Have mercy on 'me, O God,  
According to your un'failing love.**

**Wash away all my in'iquity,  
And cleanse me 'from my sin.**

**For I know my trans'gressions,  
And my sin is always be'fore me.**

**Refrain: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Against you, you only, 'have I sinned  
And done what is evil 'in your sight.**

**Surely I was sin'ful at birth,  
Sinful from the time my mother con'ceived me.**

**Hide your face 'from my sins,  
And blot out all my in'iquity.**

**Restore to me the joy of your sal'vation,  
And grant me a willing spirit, to sus'tain me.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**Refrain: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18**

Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: "I believed; therefore, I have spoken," we also believe, and therefore we speak. For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks. Therefore we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.  
(EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.

### **Gospel: Mark 3:20-35**

They went into a house. A crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat a meal. When his own people heard this, they went out to take control of him, because they were saying, "He is out of his mind." The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He drives out demons by the ruler of demons." Jesus called them together and spoke to them in parables. "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man's house to steal his possessions unless he ties up the strong man first. Then he can plunder his house. Amen I tell you: Everything will be forgiven people, their sins and whatever blasphemies they may speak. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus said this because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." Then his mother and his brothers arrived. While they were standing outside, they sent word to Jesus, calling for him. A crowd was sitting around him. They began to tell him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you." He replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" He looked at those who sat around him in a circle and he said, "Look, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." (EHV)

### **The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn #396 - “In Adam We Have All Been One”**

**In Adam we have all been one,  
One huge rebellious man;  
We all have fled that evening voice  
That sought us as we ran.**

**We fled our God, and losing him,  
We lost our brother too.  
Each singly sought and claimed his own;  
Each man his brother slew.**

**But your strong love, it sought us still  
And sent your only Son  
That we might hear his shepherd-voice  
And, hearing him, be one.**

**O Savior, when we loved you not,  
You loved and saved us all;  
O great good Shepherd of mankind,  
Oh, hear us when we call.**

**Send us your Spirit; teach us truth  
To purge our vanity.  
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways,  
O Savior, set us free.**

**Then shall our song united rise  
To your eternal throne,  
Where with the Father evermore  
And Spirit you are one.**

**The Sermon:       Genesis 3:8-15  
                      “Humanity’s Great Tragedy, And God’s Salvation  
                      Prophecy”**

Today I’d like you to take a few moments to **stop** thinking about the extreme **heat** which we’ve been experiencing lately, and to think about a different time of year - **Christmas**. If we took away all the Christmas **trees** and **wreaths**, the **lights** and **ornaments**, the **snow**, and even the **cookies** - could we still have **Christmas**?

If we had to go without Christmas **vacation** from school, the exchange of **presents** between family and friends, and all the seasonal **television** specials, could we still have Christmas? I'm pretty sure you all know the **answer** to those questions. But what if we took away **Genesis 3**, our **text** for this morning? What if we removed from our minds any knowledge of the **fall** of humanity into **sin**, and of God's **promise** to send a **Savior** for us lost sinners? Could we still have a **meaningful Christmas**? I think you know that answer to those questions too.

A pastor once said, "The first three chapters of the Bible are the **key** to understanding all the **rest** of the Bible. If you don't **know** them, you will be **lost** the rest of the way." And we could even take that statement a step **further**. If we didn't know anything about the text we have before us today, we would never be able to understand **ourselves**, our **behavior**, the **problems** we face in the world around us, or the great **love** which God has shown to us in Jesus. Genesis 3 is that **important**. It shows us **Humanity's Great Tragedy, And God's Salvation Prophecy**.

The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is not a **myth**, but rather, it's a **true historic event** which God has recorded for us in the Bible. It's the record of humanity's tragic **fall** into **sin**. Adam and Eve were God's **special** creation - made in **His image** - **holy** and **pure** - possessing a completely perfect **trust** in God. They **loved** Him, and were happy to **obey** the one **command** which He had given to them: "*You may freely eat from **every tree** in the garden, **but** you shall **not** eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for on the day that you eat from **it**, you will certainly **die**.*"

But then we're told that the **devil** paid a visit to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The devil is an **angel**, who led a **rebellion** against God, and who consequently was cast **out** of heaven to spend an eternity in **hell**. He appeared in the garden as a **snake**, and he said to the woman, "*Has God **really** said, 'You shall not eat from **any** tree in the garden'?" It **seems** like an **innocent** enough question, but what the devil was **doing** was tempting Eve to **question** God's Word. She answered, "*We **may** eat fruit from the trees of the garden, but **not** from the fruit of the tree that is in the **middle** of the garden. God has said, 'You shall **not** eat from it. You shall not **touch** it, or else you will **die**.'*" Then the devil showed his true **colors** by directly **contradicting** what God had said. He said, "*You certainly will **not** die. In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be **opened**, and you will be **like God**, knowing good **and** evil.*" The devil was tempting Eve to **doubt** God's **goodness**, and to **distrust** Him. He made it sound as if God was holding **back** something which was **good** for them, because at this time they didn't **know***

anything about **evil**. Of course, it was a **lie**. Evil **isn't** good. But Eve **swallowed** the lie, and then proceeded to swallow a bite of the **fruit** which God had **forbidden**. She also gave some to her **husband**, who was **with** her, and **he** ate it too. In this way they **both** chose to side with the **devil**, and to disobey **God**. They fell into **sin**.

Their fall was **life-changing** - not only for **themselves**, but for everyone **else** who would come **after** them. Their lives of **harmony** with the LORD came crashing down. They **died** - which was exactly what God had **warned** them would happen. **Immediately** sin brought them **spiritual** and **eternal** death, and in the future, they would have to face **physical** death as well. They **lost** the **purity** and **holiness** which God had given to them. They became **selfish**. They lost **trust** in God, and they tried to **hide** from Him. Their lives were riddled with **guilt** and **fear**. And as our text continues, they both tried to **deny** their sin, and pass the **blame** on to someone else. Adam and Eve had become servants of the **devil**.

But as I said, this wasn't **only** a tragedy for Adam and Eve. The Bible teaches us that *"Just as sin entered the world through **one** man and death through sin, so also death spread to **all people** because **all** sinned."* **All people** fell in Adam's fall. **Sin**, **death**, and eternal **condemnation** came to **every descendant** of Adam - and that includes **you** and **me**. We have **all** inherited Adam's sin. We were **all** born with a sinful **nature**. And the Apostle Paul would later write, *"Indeed, I know that **good** does **not** live in me, that is, in my **sinful flesh**."* Our human flesh is **proud** and **selfish**. It thinks it's **entitled** to whatever it **wants** - even if those wants go **against** God's commandments. And all too often, they **do**.

We've **all** tried to **cover up** bad things which we've done. We've **all** felt **guilty**, and we've all been **afraid** of God's punishment - and **rightly so** because our sins have placed us under the **wrath** of God. Our God has every **right** to be **angry** with us - to have nothing **to do** with us - and to let us **suffer** through lives of **misery** and **shame**. The events of Genesis 3 mark the saddest day in all of human history - the day of our tragic **fall** into **sin**.

But our **good** and **gracious** God came to the **rescue**. At the very time when His children had shown themselves to be **disobedient** and **unfaithful**, He showed **Himself** to be a **loving** and **merciful** Father, by providing Adam and Eve with the very **first** Gospel promise - the promise of a coming **Savior** who would **rescue** all people from the **curse** of sin. God said to the devil, *"I will put **hostility** between you and the woman, and between **your** seed and **her** seed. **He** will crush your **head**, and you will crush his **heel**."* Satan **thought** he had humanity on his side **forever**. But **God** announced that **He** wouldn't **allow** that to happen. He would create

**hostility** between the devil and humanity. And **ultimately** the hostilities would **end** with a battle between the **devil** and one particular **seed** of the woman - one **man**. In that battle, the devil would **wound** the man. He would crush His **heel**. But in the process, the **man** would crush the serpent's **head**, thus **destroying** the **power** of Satan, and breaking his **hold** over all people.

This was God's **first promise** to send a Savior, and that promise was **fulfilled** thousands of years later, in **Jesus**. John clearly tells us the **purpose** of Jesus' birth in his first letter. "*This is **why** the Son of God appeared: to **destroy** the works of the Devil.*" Jesus came to **crush** the **head** of Satan and to **destroy** all of his power. Jesus came to **save** all people from their sins, and to make **peace** for us with God; and He **did** it by **overcoming** the devil's temptations, by **living** with complete **trust** in God and **obedience** to His will, and by offering His life as a perfect **sacrifice** for sin by dying on the cross. Satan no longer has any **claim** on us, because our sins have all been **forgiven** through **Jesus**. All those selfish, sinful choices and actions that you and I have ever made, were placed on **Him**, and He suffered the **punishment** we deserved, and removed the **guilt** of our sins forever. Because of **Jesus** we have received **life** and **fellowship** with God, and the right to be called His **children**.

And that takes us back to thoughts of **Christmas** once again. The **birth of Jesus** reveals God's **faithfulness** to that loving **promise** which He made in the Garden of Eden. In spite of the fact that we had **disobeyed** Him, and **spoiled** His perfect world, God **loved** us, and promised to send His **Son** to **save** us. That love of God never **wavered** throughout history. He continued to remain **faithful**, and He always **will**. The love which God has for us sinners will **always** be there, and it **lifts up** our hearts with joy. Even though the devil will continue to do his **dirty** work - **twisting** God's Word, and **tempting** us to sin - we will always have God's love for us in **Jesus**. Our God will never **leave** us or **forsake** us, and resting in His faithful love, we can **defy** the devil's attempts to **deceive** us. Our sinful nature will never completely **go away**, and we will continue to **lament** all those things we **do**, which we didn't really **want** to do - the cruel **words** we've spoken - the rude **behavior** we've shown toward others. But in the end we can **rejoice**, because through **Jesus** we have **God's love**, and God is faithful to **forgive** our sins, and to **purify** us from all unrighteousness.

Genesis 3 reveals **Humanity's Great Tragedy** - it explains all the sin and sorrow which is found in our **world** today, and in our **lives**. But Genesis 3 also reveals **God's Salvation Prophecy** - His **promise** to send His **Son** into the world to set us **free** from sin, and to take us **home** to heaven. That promise was **fulfilled**



in Jesus. He is our **Savior**, our **deliverer**, our **hope**, and our **life**. **Humanity's Great Tragedy, And God's Salvation Prophecy** - It's all found right here, in Genesis 3. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

O God, our heavenly Father, You know that we are very **sinful** - indeed, the entire **world** is full of iniquity because of the transgression of **Adam**, the father of us all. In our **thoughts**, in our **words**, and in our **deeds**, all too often we pattern our lives after the children of **this** world. Even the **good** we do is **soiled** by the sins of which we are continually guilty. We confess that if righteousness and salvation depended upon **our** works, we would be hopelessly **lost** and **condemned**.

But blessed is every person whose transgressions are **forgiven**, and whose sins are **covered** with the blood of Jesus. Blessed is every person whose sins You do not count against him. **Forgive** our sins, and **comfort** us with the peace that comes from knowing that we will never be called to **account** for the wrongs which we have done. We plead for Your **mercy** and Your **forgiveness**, knowing by faith that because of **Jesus** we **have** them.

Lord, through the Holy Spirit renew Your **image** in us, that we may know You in **truth**, worship You in **spirit**, and serve You in **holiness** all our days. And as we look to **You** for mercy, move **us** to be compassionate to **others**, so that we **forgive** those who sin against us, and readily do **good** to all people - even our **enemies**. May our love for **You**, inspired by the great love You have for **us**, be evident in all that we say and do. Cause our lives to be fully **dedicated** to Your service.

We confess that we are **unworthy** of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown to Your servants, but we are confident that You will graciously **continue** to **bless** us for the sake of Jesus Christ, through whom we have the gift of **eternal life**. Keep us and our households under Your **protection**. **Preserve** us from sin, and **protect** us from danger. Through Your Word, **strengthen** our faith, **direct** our wills, and **comfort** our souls. Amen.

### **The 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.**

**Hymn #378 - *“All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall”***

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

**Through all our pow’rs corruption creeps  
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt we draw our infant breath  
And reap its fruits of woe and death.**

**From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God’s image lost, the darkened soul  
Nor seeks 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, was doomed to hell,  
So by one Man, who took our place,  
We all were justified by grace.**

**We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,  
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs;  
This grace our ev’ry way attend  
Until we reach our journey’s end.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #754 - "The Tree of Life"**

**The tree of life with ev'ry good  
In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.**

**The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam to by sin defile.  
Oh, day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.**

**What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by his grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need -  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head!**

**Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
Flows life eternal in his name;  
For all who trust and will believe,  
Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood  
The tree of life with ev'ry good.**