

## Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree

### 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”!

### Opening Hymn

#### 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.

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439  
Accompaniment ©2009 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

### 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.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,  
**C** **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

- P** What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

**C** **I do confess.**

- P** So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

**C** **I do repent.**

- P** So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus’ sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**C** **I do believe.**

- P** So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**C** **I do promise.**

- P** So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**C** **I do believe.**

- P** As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead 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.**

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

**C** **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

## 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 splendor thrills and gladdens  
With radiance brighter than the sun,  
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,  
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
- 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,  
And lamps are lit, and children nod,  
In evening hymns we lift our voices  
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
- 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,  
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,  
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,  
Whose glory lightens endless days.

Text: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439  
Accompaniment © 2009 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**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.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—<sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet 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.

<sup>15</sup>But 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. <sup>16</sup>And 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. <sup>17</sup>If, 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.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For 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. <sup>20</sup>Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup>so 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.

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>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.”

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>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.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24–37

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You , O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 561 The Tree of Life

- 1 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.
  
- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.
  
- 3 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!
  
- 4 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.

Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439  
Accompaniment ©2009 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, our Father, we give You thanks that You bring us once again into a new Church Year whereby we confess and proclaim Your great love for the world in the sending of Your only-begotten Son as the Child of the Virgin Mary, the Lamb proclaimed by John the Baptist, the teacher of the holy apostles, the sacrifice for the sins of the world on the cross, and the risen Savior of all, who will come again in glory on the Last Day. Lord, keep us in this confession and faith, and bless its proclamation throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Supply Your whole Church on earth with faithful pastors and laborers who will continually feed and lead Your people, rightly proclaiming Your Word, administering Your Holy Sacraments, and caring for all in their charge. Guard and bless Your servant [*name*], our Synod President, and [*name*], our District President. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** That we may live in peace and safety, we ask You to continually bless those in the authority of government,

(USA) the President and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Grant that they rule according to Your good pleasure by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Comfort, O Lord, all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, especially Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Brad Koelper, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Jeanne Zundel, Doug, Paula, Pastor Barber and Pastor Teller. Grant healing, peace, and courage for all bearing their crosses to Your praise and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Individual petitions may be added here.*

**P** As Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down to us at Christmas and now comes to us by Your Spirit in Your Word, we pray for His final coming to deliver us all in the great day of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Son of Mary, the Son of God to live and give His life as a ransom to deliver us and the whole world from the judgment of death for our sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

By Your own will of mercy for us, Jesus came as King and was enthroned on a cross that we may be raised to reign with Him, now seated at Your right hand of power. So we pray again in this new year, “Come, Lord Jesus, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.”

By Your body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we proclaim Your death until You come again in glory.

**C** **Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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.**

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### 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.

### 572 In the Shattered Bliss of Eden

- 1 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.
- 2 Days and months and years unfolding  
    Clearly showed what sin had wrought:  
Fallen Adam's children learning  
    Lessons fallen parents taught.  
All these sacrificial offerings  
    Crested as a crimson flood:  
Patriarchs and priests atoning  
    For their sins with cleansing blood.
- 3 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.
- 4 Lamb of God, once slain for sinners,

Host, who spreads this meal divine,  
Here You pledge our sins are covered,  
Pledge received in bread and wine:  
“Take and eat; this is My body,  
Given on the cross for you.  
Take and drink; this cup of blessing  
Is My blood poured out for you.”

5 Taste and see the bliss of heaven  
Known by saints around the throne,  
Where the Lamb, in closest union,  
Lives to love and feed His own.  
From His riven side forever  
Flows the purest stream of love,  
Love that robes us with the raiment  
Worn by all who feast above.

6 Gone the bliss of Eden’s garden,  
Gone the age of sacrifice;  
Ours the time of grace and favor,  
Ours the call to paradise!  
Ever, Lord, impress upon us:  
Only You can cover sin—  
Take our worthless, self-made garments;  
Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

Text: © 2002 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439  
Accompaniment ©2009 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.