



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the Gospel
and
Go
with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

December 4, 2024
Advent Midweek 1



Christmas

TREES

A MIDWEEK ADVENT SERIES

The Tree of Rebellion

Scripture says it was hard to miss, because God placed it “in the middle of the garden”—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were allowed to eat from every tree in Eden except that one. Why did God forbid them from eating the fruit of that one tree? Simply so that mankind would have one way to demonstrate they loved and trusted God. By disobeying God, Adam and Eve proved they didn’t fully trust him. More, they proved that they loved the thought of being in control more than they loved God. It was rebellion. Still today, we rebel against our good and gracious God when we love or trust anything more than him.

That Tree of Rebellion points to the need for Christ. We needed God to send a Savior who would succeed where we fail. The Christ would be the only man who ever loved and trusted God perfectly. More, while hanging on a tree, the Christ would shed his blood for our rebellion. It is the first tree in the Bible that serves as a Christmas tree. . . a tree that points us to Christ—the Tree of Rebellion.

Advent Gathering Rite

Come, Come Emmanuel

The Choir will introduce the melody, the congregation joins in as the melody is repeated while the choir sings the verses over the repeated melody.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Come, come Emmanuel'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Come, Emmanuel'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sung

Choir: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Congregation: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: See the glory of God and

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Oh be strong, fear not and

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: For our God comes to save us, so

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Oh be patient, the Lord will

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Bring good news to the poor and

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: For the way is prepared, so

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Stand

The music continues softly as we speak the invocation, confession, and absolution.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: 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: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the same of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation sings the melody while the choir sings the verses.

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: **We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

One Advent candle is lit. Be Seated.

THE WORD

Lesson

Galatians 3:13-17

Christ paid for our rebellion by dying on the tree of the cross.

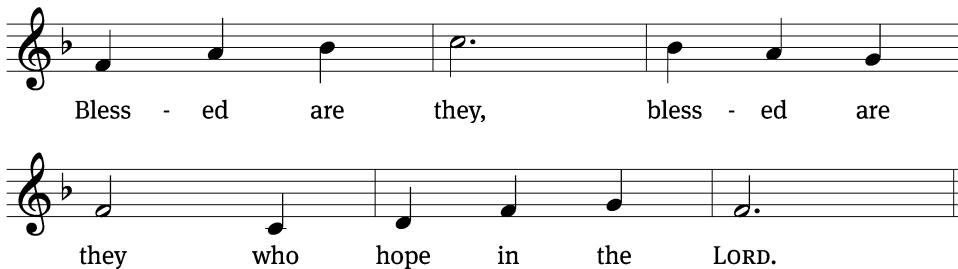
¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. As it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”^[Deut. 21:23] ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we would receive the promised Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brothers, I am speaking in human terms. When someone has established a last will and testament, no one nullifies it or adds to it. ¹⁶ The promises God spoke referred to Abraham and to his seed. It doesn’t say, “And to seeds,” as if it were referring to many, but, as referring to one, “And to your seed,”^[Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 24:7] who is Christ. ¹⁷ What I am saying is this: The law, which came into being 430 years after the covenant established earlier by God in Christ, does not annul that covenant, with the result that it invalidates the promise. (EHV)

Psalm of the Day

Blessed Are They Psalm 1a CW

Refrain



Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

Tone



Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

**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***

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Lesson

Genesis 3:1–15

Wanting to be like God mankind rebelled against God, eating the forbidden fruit.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,
“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.” (NIV)

Hymn of the Day

The Tree of Life CW 574



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a
 lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
 sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,
 tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for
 fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and
 world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played with - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Stand

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer

M: Dear Jesus, we look forward to your second Christmas. It will take place with your holy angels surrounding you and they will again sing – proclaiming “victory, rescue and good news” to all the world. It will be a moment of unparalleled peace and joy for us who look to you in faith.

Forgiven by your grace, washed in your holy blood, kept alive by your Word and Sacrament – stir in us a great desire to break our own silence to share your peace with others who don't yet believe in you. Stir in us a great desire to love our neighbor as you have loved us.

C: Dear Jesus, we know you keep all your promises. And so we wait, we keep watch with spiritual vigilance, and we put our hope in you. Amen

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

C: Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Creator of the Stars of Night CW 323



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to
3 When earth drew on to dark - est night, you came, but
4 At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
death a u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race
not in splen - dor bright, not as a king, but as the child
bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord
Spir - it, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
with heal - ing gifts of heav'n - ly grace.
of Mar - y, vir - gin moth - er mild.
join those in heav'n to call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, c. 9th cent.

Tune: plainsong, c. 9th cent.

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The Tree of Life

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