

➤ ... It nevertheless is clear that Eve was a saintly woman and that she believed the promise concerning the future salvation through the blessed Seed. And because she believes, she is happy about her son and speaks of him in such grand terms: *"I have gotten the man of God who will **conduct himself more properly** and with greater good fortune **than my Adam** and I conducted ourselves in Paradise. For this reason I do not call him my son, but he is the man of God who was promised and provided by God."* (LW.1)

**3. The Seed of Hope** Adam and Eve show us the way of faith and hope for all of us forgiven sinners. They took God at His Word and eagerly expected Him to keep His promise to send a Savior. Adam and Eve soon discovered, however, that **Cain was not the Christ**. But **they kept looking and hoping**. Every successive generation would keep looking and hoping because God kept promising His Seed of a Savior through the centuries and through the generations. Abraham trusted God's promise and hoped for the Savior: *"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 22:18). **King David** heard and anticipated this Promise: *"I will set up your Seed after you, Who will come from your body, and I will establish His Kingdom"* (2 Samuel 7:12).

**SINGLE! SEED** St. Paul teaches us just how to understand these **Old Testament** promises of God's Family Tree: *"[God] does not say 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your **Seed**,' Who is Christ."* (Galatians 3:16) God's Family Tree comes to full bloom in the Seed that is Christ Jesus. God promised a Seed of the woman to Adam and Eve, and He sent His Son to be the Seed of the young woman, the blessed virgin named Mary. What Eve only hoped for, Mary actually saw and experienced. Mary could truly say (what Eve said of Cain), *"I have produced a man, the LORD!"*

**J.C. GOD-MAN** Mary's God-Man, Jesus Christ, would actually **conduct Himself properly and straighten up the mess of sin and death in the world**. This God-Man, Jesus the Son of David, the son of Jesse, would actually overcome and reverse the fall into sin. By His death on the bloody Cross, He would actually graft the branch of humanity back on the tree of life with God.

**OUR TREE** Now, just in case you're wondering, this is **more than** ancient history. **This is your story**. This is **your** family tree, in the family of God, that is. The Seed promised to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, and to David, **has been given to you**. What the Old Testament saints only hoped for, you have seen come to full fruition. By this Seed of the woman, by the forgiveness that He won for you on the Cross, God has **grafted you back into life** with Him. The waters of your Baptism give you this refreshing new life with God. The Body and Blood of Christ in His Supper give you the nourishing, life-giving nutrients that come up from the roots and the trunk. -- Adam and Eve may have broken the branch of humanity off of the Tree of Life with God, but God **planted the Seed** of His own Family Tree so that you and all people would be grafted back into life with Him forever. *I'N, Amen.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL   
 1<sup>st</sup> Midweek in Advent  *God's Family Tree: 1. Planted*  
 Advent 2018 ✨ December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 4:30 pm

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold liturgy sheets or BLACK ELHymnary p.120

Service	ELH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	<b>110</b> (7v)	<i>Sing vv. 1-4</i> O Come, O Come, Immanuel
Main Hymn	<b>302</b> (4v)	The Tree of Life With Ev'ry Good
<i>Canticle</i>	<i>Magnificat</i>	( <i>Song of Mary</i> ) My Soul Magnifies the Lord...
Closing Hymn	<b>123</b> (15)	<i>Sing vv. 1-5</i> From Heav'n Above to Earth

**Scripture Lesson for  the First Midweek in Advent** (Sermon Text)  
**Genesis 3:1-21 NIV** Now 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?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but 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 surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When 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. 7 Then 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. 8 Then 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. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then 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, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 **And 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.**" 16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'" 20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

**ADVENT-1/W Genesis 3:1–21 “GOD’S FAMILY TREE - TREE PLANTED” 02.05.18 OS**

**(OUR)FAMILY TREES**

**Everyone has a family tree**, and many people love to trace their roots back several generations to find out where they come from. When you know your family tree, you gain a greater sense of who your relatives were and, more important, of who you are. If you find out that one of your ancestors was a crown prince or a famous inventor (or a notorious criminal), somehow that adds identity to your own life.

**GOD’S FAMILY TREE**

Would it surprise you to hear that **God has His own Family Tree?** Now, God’s Family Tree does not go back several generations into eternity to find out **where He comes from**. The Triune God has always existed, and He is the Source and Creator of all things. Instead, God’s Family Tree shows you how God sent His Son into the world in order to graft you back into His family. In God’s Family Tree you get to trace the ancestors of Jesus Christ to see Who He is and what He does for you. You also find out **who you are in God’s family** by looking to **your greatest Ancestor, Jesus Christ**.

**ADVENT THEME** This Advent (2018) we ponder “God’s Family Tree.” As we prepare for **God’s coming in Human Flesh and Blood**, “God’s Family Tree” shows us how God worked through the history of His chosen people to save all people. Tonight we hear how God **planted** His Family Tree. next Wednesday we will hear “The Tree **Promised**,” and the following week we will see “The Tree **Pruned**.” When we celebrate Christmas, we will hear how God gave us “The Tree **Presented**” in the Birth of Jesus the Christ.

**1. The Broken Branch**

When God created the world and everything in it, He placed Adam and Eve in the middle of the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. They could eat from any tree in the Garden, even **the Tree of Life**. But there was one tree from which they were not to eat - **the Tree of Knowledge**. All of the other trees would give and sustain life, but the Tree of Knowledge would deliver death. God wanted Adam and Eve to trust Him that they did not need this one tree. After all, they had all of those other trees.

**FIGURE OF GOD/J.C.**

**A tree is a great illustration** for the relationship between the true, Triune God and His created people. **God is like the root system and the trunk**, and His creatures are like the branches. Just as a branch can live only when it’s connected to the tree trunk, Adam and Eve, and all people, can live only when they are connected to the living God. But when Adam and Eve seized and devoured the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, they tore themselves away from God. They became just like a branch that is **broken off the tree** and left lying on the ground. The leaves may still look alive for a time, but the branch is separated from its source of life **and is destined for death**.

**BROKEN BRANCH**

By nature, you and I are just like Adam and Eve - separated from God as **a branch severed from a tree**. God told Adam and Eve what they could expect because of their willful, rebellious

separation from Him. Women would have great sorrow and pain as they bear children. (**Genesis 3:16**) Men would toil over a cursed ground and make a living only by blood, sweat, and tears (**Genesis 3:18–19**). And instead of living forever, as God wanted them to, Adam and Eve would return to the dust of the ground in death (**Genesis 3:19**).

**CURSE**

This **curse of the Fall** affects every human being in every time and place. When Adam and Eve tore themselves away from God and fell from His grace as a branch falling from a tree, their fall led to everything from disastrous earthquakes to raging tornadoes to terrorist bombings, everything from tragic plane crashes to corrupt governments to terminal cancer. Just like a big branch that has fallen from a tree, **this whole world is in the process of dying**.

**OUR CURSE TOO**

You can especially see the effects of this fall **in your own life**. You experience frustrations in your family. You contend with chaos at work. You are diagnosed with cancer, or you suffer the loss of a loved one. All of this comes to you because sin has severed you and everyone around you from God. Not only that, but your very heart is set against God, hostile to Him, in fact. Sure, you may consider yourself religious and go to church often, but your sinful heart wants to “be like God” (**Genesis 3:5**) and call the shots in your relationship with Him. But that’s like **a broken-off branch trying to turn itself into a tree. It just doesn’t work!**

**2. The Planted Seed**

Just as a branch cannot reconnect itself to the tree, no human being can decide to get reconnected to God. Here’s where God steps in and plants His Family Tree. Even as He speaks words of curse and consequences—the curse on the devil and the ground, and the consequences for Adam and Eve—God also speaks words of great promise: *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**). God plants the seed of His Family Tree by promising the Seed of the woman, the Seed who will save all people from sin and death.

**PROMISE(D) SEED**

If you’re not careful, you could miss it. God’s promise about the Seed who is the Savior is, well, only a seed. But when God plants this Promise in the ears of Adam and Eve, it takes root and generates faith, because “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (**Romans 10:17**). And that faith also bears hope—hope that God’s Promise will certainly come true. Adam and Eve knew exactly what God meant. God intended to send a man -- and not just any man, but a God-man -- to straighten up the cosmic mess they had created.

**1<sup>ST</sup>-BORN SON**

In **Genesis 4:1** we read that Adam and Eve had their first child. Eve said, “*I have acquired a man from the LORD.*” Quite literally Eve said, “*I have produced a Man, THE LORD.*” God’s Promise of the Seed of a Savior kindled faith in Adam and Eve, and they piously thought that their firstborn son would be the Savior of the world. Here’s what **Martin Luther** said about EVE specifically when she had *her* first-born son: ... ↗