

HOPE (FOR ALL!) This **Root of Jesse** would give hope for God's people. They would come back from their exile in Babylon. They would return to God's temple and God's land. They would be rescued from their sin and enjoy life with God once again. **Jesse** was the father of David, and **David** was the father of **Solomon** and many kings after him. Long after the exile, God would send His only-begotten Son, **Jesus the Christ**, the Son of David, the (real) Root of Jesse. God's Family Tree would grow again.

TIME OF TRUE PEACE When you read **Isaiah 11**, you see how the promised Savior will bring a **time much better than Israel knew** under King David - a time so peaceful and prosperous that it goes beyond our imagination. *"The wolf...shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them"* (**Isaiah 11:6**). The peace and prosperity of King Jesus will **go far beyond** the peace and prosperity of King David.

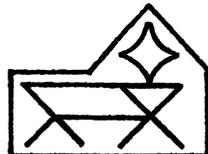
PEACE FOR YOU! King Jesus gives you **His peace, prosperity, and rest even now**. The little Child, who shall lead God's people, grew up to become the King of the Jews. After He was crowned with thorns and given a robe of royal purple, He "took His throne" on the Cross. There He accomplished your forgiveness with God. He achieved peace between God and you, and He earned for you the prosperity of God's eternal riches and rest.

APPLICATION So, **instead of vainly chasing** after the peace and prosperity that the world offers, remember that you already have the peace and prosperity that come from **Jesus, the Root of Jesse**. You don't need to bow down to the glittery, golden images of worldly prosperity, because you have all of God's eternal riches given to you **in your Baptism**. You don't need to hunger and thirst for worldly status and recognition, because Christ already makes you His honored guests **at His Table** both now **and forever**.

(ISAIAH PROPHECY) As **Isaiah** said, *"In that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a Banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious"* (**Isaiah 11:10**). Perhaps you know the sung version better:

**Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, - From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust Your mighty pow'r to save; Bring them in vict'ry through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall COME TO YOU, O Israel! (ELH #110)**

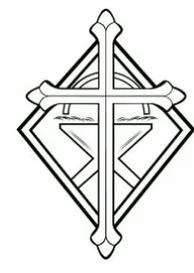
P.P.P.P. We've seen "The Tree **Planted**," "The Tree **Promised**," and now "The Tree **Pruned**." In five more days (Christmas Eve) we will see "The Tree **Presented**" in the birth of our Savior Jesus. **IJ'N, Amen**



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL 
3rd Midweek in Advent  **God's Family Tree: 3. Pruned**
Advent 2018 ✧ December 19th, 2018 ✧ 4:30 pm

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

Service	ELH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	111 (9v)	Sing v.1-4 When Sinners See Their Lost...
Main Hymn	111 (9v)	Sing v.6-9 (<i>O may He soon to ev'ry nation</i>)
Canticle	Magnificat	(<i>Song of Mary</i>) My Soul Magnifies the Lord...
Closing Hymn	123 (15)	Sing v11-15 From Heav'n Above to Earth



Scripture Lessons for the    Third Midweek in Advent (Sermon)

Texts 2 Samuel 7:8-13 NIV 8 "Now then, tell My servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. 10 And I will provide a place for My people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.' "The LORD declares to you that the LORD Himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish His Kingdom. 13 He is the One Who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever. (... 17 Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.)

Isaiah 11:1-10 A Shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - 3 and He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; 4 but with Righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist. ... 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a Banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His place of rest will be glorious.

ADVENT-3/W 2Samuel 7:1-17; Isaiah 11:1-10 G.F.T "TREE PRUNED" 12.19.18
(SERMON-1 DEC-5 "TREE **PLANTED**" / SERMON-2 DEC-12 "TREE **PROMISED**")
SERMON-3 ADV.3W TODAY! December 19th 2Sam.&Isaiah "TREE PRUNED"

A. Place to Rest, B. A Diseased Tree, C. A Shoot/Root of Jesse

INTRO. When we began this series on "God's Family Tree," we heard how God **planted** the Seed of His Savior to overcome sin, Satan, and death, and how His Savior would graft us back into life with Him. Last week we heard how God's promised Seed was **hidden** for a time, how Abraham had trouble trusting God's **Promise**, and how God kept His Promise and **sent His Son, Jesus Christ**, so that the whole world would be blessed through Abraham and his family line.

PROMISED to PRUNED Today (ADVENT-3/W) we trace God's Family Tree through the time of **David the king** and then the time of **Isaiah the prophet**. God's Family Tree grew for all to see in a "superpower of a kingdom" under David, but later it had to be cut down, as Isaiah prophesied. God's Family Tree grew and flourished, and many could rest in its shade, but then it became diseased and had to be cut down. But, as we will see, what looks like a drastic cutting down to us is merely God's way of pruning His own Family Tree to deliver the Savior He promised for centuries. So, tonight we look at "The Tree **Pruned**."

A. A PLACE TO REST **David, the youngest son of Jesse**, had been a **shepherd boy**, but God chose him to be the second king of Israel. And what a king he was! He endured persecutions and betrayals. He rallied the troops and unified the nation. He began his reign about a thousand years before Christ, and under his faithful leadership Israel finally enjoyed peace and prosperity. Through King David, God made the land of Israel a place at rest. God's Family Tree flourished and thrived.

HOUSE FOR GOD Since David was a devout man, he wanted to build a house in which God would dwell. He compared his own house of cedar with the tent of curtains where God's ark resided, and he wanted something better for the worship of God. So through the prophet Nathan God asked David, "*Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?*" (**2 Samuel 7:5**). God did not want a house built by David. Instead, He wanted to **build a house - a Family Tree**, if you will - for David! God told David, "*When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*" (**2 Samuel 7:12-13**).

SOLOMON GONE BAD After David died and rested with his fathers, **his son Solomon** reigned and built the temple, the house where God would meet His people and give them rest in His forgiveness. At first, Solomon seemed to fulfill God's promise of the seed from David's body. Under Solomon the **superpower of Israel grew**, and the temple testified to God's Name and glory. But **Solomon went astray**, allowing false gods to

infiltrate Israel's worship of the true God, and unrest shackled the people of Israel. There would be a **better and** (even *much*) **greater fulfillment** of God's promise to David.

B. A DISEASED TREE Under Solomon's son **Rehoboam**, the kingdom of Israel split in two. The **Northern Kingdom** had different dynasties, while the **Southern Kingdom** continued the house and lineage of David. But both kingdoms failed to hold on to the true worship of God. As the centuries wore on, **God sent many prophets** to warn His people and bring them back to Himself. **God's Family Tree was becoming spiritually diseased** - they were forgetting their God and His life-giving Word and worship.

VINEYARD PICTURE The **prophet Isaiah** served God in the **eighth century** before Christ. Using the **picture of a Vineyard**, Isaiah sang a song of God and His Family Tree, the people of Israel. "*The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,*" Isaiah said (**5:7**). After recounting how He had set up His Vineyard - His Family Tree, if you will - with tender, loving care (**Isaiah 5:1-2**), God asked, "*What more could have been done to My vineyard? . . . Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?*" (**Isaiah 5:4**).

WE ARE GUILTY TOO **Why indeed!** God's people enjoyed their peace and prosperity much more than they delighted in God and His life and salvation. But **don't judge them too harshly**, because **you and I suffer from the same disease**. Like God's people of old, we prize the nice home and the beautiful clothing **above** God's House or being clothed in Christ in our Baptism. Like God's people of old, we trust the **wisdom of human "leaders"**, especially the ones we see on television or movie screens, above the counsel of God that we hear from the pulpit. Like God's people of old, we try to keep the shell of worship in God's house, but we'd much rather fill it with the excitement and glamour of the culture around us rather than the time-tested truths of God's Word.

US... Just like ancient Israel, **we also succumb to the enticements** of relative peace and prosperity. And just like ancient Israel, **we need to be cut down**. "*Behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, will lop off the bough with terror; those of high stature will be hewn down, and the proud will be humbled*" (**Isaiah 10:33**). Just as He cut down His own people of Israel, God must also cut us down by **showing us our sin and our need for a Savior**.

C. A ROOT OF JESSE A forest ranger will tell you that sometimes you must **cut down the diseased trees to save the forest**. In the case of God's Family Tree, God had to chop down the diseased tree in order to save the world. Yes, it was an act of **severe judgment**, but it had to be done in order to save the Family Tree and bring forth the Savior. You see, when God chopped down His Family Tree, He still left the roots of His promised Savior in the ground. So Isaiah proclaimed these words of hope: "*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots*" (**Isaiah 11:1**).