

1st S. in Lent 3/9/14  
 Genesis 3:1-21 A

BUT THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE MAN AND SAID TO HIM,  
 “WHERE ARE YOU?”

One of my all-time favorite cartoons shows a psychiatrist sitting by his patient. His writing pad is all filled-up as he jots down his patient’s list of fears.

“Now (he says to his patient) besides your fear of nerve gas, irritating tars, sonic boom, human wolf packs, rock music, Wall Street, DDT sprays, plastic bombs, the Birch Society, labor unions, riots, intercontinental ballistic missiles, urban sprawl, inflation, unemployment, Red China, street crime, and revolving credit, do you have any **IRRATIONAL** fears?”

This morning’s message is based on our Old Testament reading from Genesis 3. God made His creation good and the devil came and tempted Eve to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree. Adam joined her in rebellion against God and the creation has been cursed ever since. The saddest thing in the reading is that, while Adam and Eve once loved God and enjoyed being with Him, they hid from Him in their guilt.

I. THEY HAD DISOBEYED GOD AND THEY WERE AFRAID OF WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO THEM. Their fear was real and quite rational. We really don’t know what they did when they hid from God – Moses doesn’t tell us – but, you’ve seen the artist’s interpretation of the first couple hiding behind the leaves. In your mind’s eye, you can picture them peaking through the branches and leaves, checking to see if God knows where they’re hiding. You can just hear one of them turn to the other and give an anxious, “Sush, He’ll hear you!” They’re fear was real, soundly based and quite rational.

Why wouldn’t they be afraid? They had heard the promise of God, “in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” They didn’t want to die, so they hid, thinking God would never find them.

God is all knowing and He’s present everywhere. He knows us better than we know ourselves and He sees deeper into us than we are able, or, even willing to look. David, in his guilt and shame, knew that there was no

way that he could hide from God. He learned something that we all know to be true and taught us that truth in Psalm 139:

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways ... Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there (Ps 139)!

But, that doesn't stop us from playing our games with God. Like Adam and Eve, we don't want to die in our sin, so we try to hide from God. We try to hide behind our man-made branches and leaves -- thinking our sin is no big deal and, besides, everyone else is doing it. But, the biggest leaf we try to hide behind is that our sins, our failings, really aren't our fault.

A mother, leaving the house to go to town, told her little boy, "Johnny, while I am gone, don't get into the jam." "No, Mom, I won't," he promised. When she returned, she noticed jam between Johnny's fingers and in the corners of his mouth. "Didn't I tell you not to get into the jam, she said?" "Yes, Mother, you did." "Johnny, didn't I tell you that when Satan tempts you, you should tell him to get behind you?" "Yes, you did." "And I did tell him to get behind me, but, when he got there, he pushed me in."

You know how it goes. Someone or something else made me do what I did and behave as I do. I'm not responsible. Someone else is. My parents were too strict. Or, maybe they were too permissive. We were so poor. We were too rich for our own good. We moved too much. We didn't move enough. I was the youngest. I was the oldest. Its not my fault!

After God found them, that's what Adam and Eve tried to plead. Eve blamed the serpent. "He deceived me, she said, and I ate." For her it was the serpent's fault.

Adam, on the other hand, chose not to blame the serpent, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Did you hear that? Adam blamed God! "The woman whom you gave to be with me!" In other words, God, if you hadn't given this woman to me, none of this would have ever happened. My sin, my disobedience, is Your fault! I do what I do because You made me this way! I am not responsible. God, it's your fault!! Sound familiar?

“Where are you?” In spite of our best efforts, when we try to hide from God, He finds us. And He doesn’t accept our excuses and rationalizations any more than He accepted Adam and Eve’s. Rather, He condemns the serpent, holds Adam and Eve responsible, and He holds us responsible.

II. And, He turns to us the heart of a most loving Father. GOD PROMISES US TO SEND A SAVIOR, THE SEED OF WOMAN, TO SAVE US, “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 (3:15).” Martin Luther comments on this promise with these words:

These words are not spoken by God for the devil’s sake...These words are spoken for the sake of Adam and Eve that they may hear this judgment and be comforted by the realization that God is the enemy of that being which inflicted so severe a wound on man. Here grace and mercy begin to shine forth from the midst of the wrath which sin and disobedience aroused. Here in the midst of most serious threats the Father reveals His heart; this is not a father who is so angry that He would turn out his son because of his son, but one who points to a deliverance, indeed one who promises victory against the enemy that deceived and conquered human nature.

That promised Seed of woman came and He was named Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins. “The wages of sin is death,” so Jesus saved us from our sins by becoming for the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world and was sacrificed upon the altar of the cross, dying the death of our sin. By that death, we have the forgiveness of our sins, God has won us back from death, and we are for all eternity set free from the damnation of hell.

III. “And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them,” Moses tells us. God has clothed you, too. It happened in your baptism. “All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ,” Paul says. In the water and the Word of your baptism, God clothed you with the righteousness of Jesus, so that it covers over the shame and the guilt that pierces your soul and troubles your conscience. WEARING THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS, GOD IS PLEASED TO CALL YOU HIS CHILD AND HEIR.

Which is good for us to remember, for as long as we journey by faith through this sin-darkened valley, the devil, the world, and our own conscience will work to make us forget that we are God's own child. God forgets, but the father of all lies keeps a good record of your wrongs. He marks you as his prey and whispers in your ear, reminding you of your sin. And your conscience believes those lies of the great Accuser so that you see yourself as one God could not possibly love, let alone forgive. The world is of no help. It will continually remind you that you are not good enough, that you don't matter because you don't measure up to its standards. These unholy three will work on us until our bones ache and real tears flow from our eyes.

We walk by faith, not be the feeling and emotion of the moment. Jesus, by His death on Calvary's cross, has crushed the head of Satan to silence forever all His ugly accusations. The blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sin. Remember in faith, that you stand before God, not with all your sin exposed, but wearing the righteousness of Jesus.

Do not be afraid. There is no reason to try to hide from God, for you are His child. Jesus is with you always, in the Word and in the eating and drinking of His body and blood to forgive and strengthen you, for all those times when Satan will come wanting very much to remind you of your sin.

"Where are you?" There is no reason for us to try to hide from God, for we are under the grace of God in Jesus, with no guilt, no shame, and no damnation.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY. AMEN.

# Concordia Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

March 9, 2014

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*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able  
to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

*Ephesians 6:11*



## **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3:1-21 (ESV)**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

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. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 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."

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. 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."

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat

bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

## **Gradual**

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
**the founder and perfecter of our faith,**  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
**and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## **Epistle Reading:** Romans 5:12-19 (ESV)

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—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 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.

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. 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. 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.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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.

**“Alleluia”:** *omitted during Lent*



## **Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* "

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "*Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'* " Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "*Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'* "

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

<b>Nicene Creed</b>	p. 191
<b>Hymn of the Day</b>	# 716
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	p. 192
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	
<b>Service of the Sacrament</b>	p. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	# 714, 623, 621
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	p. 199
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	p. 200
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	p. 201
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	# 656

**Welcome to worship** in the season of Lent, the time of following Jesus to the cross. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent teaches us the cost of following Jesus. We who have died to sin and been raised to new life in Jesus in Holy Baptism are daily tempted to abandon Jesus so that the evil foe may be lord over us. As we feebly struggle, we find comfort in the words of the battle hymn of the Reformation, “A Mighty Fortress.” The Valiant One, Jesus, has crushed the head of the evil one for us and He alone is our fortress in our struggle with the devil. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon.



**Today we join the Girl Scouts** of our congregation in celebrating the 102<sup>nd</sup> year of Girl Scouting. The following girls and their families are part of Girl Scouts: Ava and Emma Gillig, Paige Wolf, Katlyn Blaisdell and Kylie Scherer. Girl Scout leaders are Tammy Gillig, Michelle Wolf, Nona Blaisdell and Debbie Scherer.

**1 Peter:** Please join us for Bible class this morning as we continue our study of 1 Peter.



Our midweek worship continues this Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. “The King Betrayed” will be the focus of our worship. Please join us for soup and sandwiches at 5:30 p.m. served by the Council.

**Council Members**, please remember our meeting Wednesday, following worship.

**The March calendar**, Pray for Us calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet, January council minutes and “My Devotions” for the children are in the black stacking trays in the social hall.

**Hazen Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** will be hosting their annual Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and homemade pie on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the Hazen City Hall. Free will offering. All proceeds will be given to Sakakawea Medical Center and used to provide continuing excellent patient care. We hope to see you there!



Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

### **In our thoughts and prayers,**

- † Kyle Miller (Nona Blaisdell's brother);
- † Ryan & Amanda Holder, on the birth of a baby girl, Gretchen Grace;
- † Our nursing home residents, that God would keep them under His gracious care.



### **Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance**

Attendance: 100   Offerings: \$3,466.00

Jesus said to him, "*Again it is written. . .*" Jesus defeats Satan in our place – not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to it. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, because we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, because here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

### ***We are the North Dakota District...***

We are so blessed in the ND District with faithful and hard-working youth leaders, both in our congregations and in our District. On the congregation, District, and Synod level, together we offer so much to keep Christ before our children. Ask your youth leader or pastor about Jr. High Gathering, LYF, CLFYR, summer camps, national youth gathering, Higher Things and LCMS-U. Thanks, youth leaders everywhere!

President Baneck

## † This Week at Concordia †

Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
Tuesday	10:15 am	Communion @ KRCC
	1:30 pm	Naomi Guild
Wednesday	3:30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> -year Catechism
	4:30 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> -year Catechism
	5:30 pm	Soup/Sandwiches—Council
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:15 pm	Council Meeting
	7:15 pm	Chime Practice
	7:45 pm	Bell Practice
Thursday	7:00 pm	<i>Lenten Service @ Glen Ullin</i>
Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>

### Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or  
Communion attendance this morning*