

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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## Pentecost 3

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Some say the fundamental unit of government is the family. There is truth in such a conclusion, since, how parents raise their children, will affect how children interact with others at home and in society.

When God made the first family, He made Adam and Eve His God-representatives for their children. Although God created the pair in the warmth of His own holy image, Satan soon led them away from God. This sin effect brought consequences to Adam and Eve's relationship as well as in their God-raising of their children.

But we witness what our heavenly Father did to govern His fallen family. Our covenant LORD, the God of "free and faithful grace," took grace action. He sought out Adam and Eve now marred by sin and fright. Before the LORD pronounced upon them the consequence of their sin (**Genesis 3:19**), He immediately held before them the Promise of His grace. Our Old Testament reading proclaims the LORD's first promise of sending His Son, our Savior from sin (**Genesis 3:15**).

Throughout God's Old Testament **HIS**tory, the LORD kept reiterating this promise of the Savior until fulfilling that promise as recorded in His New Testament. How comforting to hear the tenderness of God's gospel love when facing the sin consequence of this fallen world: "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (**Romans 5:8**). Our three readings for Pentecost 3 form a beautiful chain of thought tracing the promise, the fulfillment and the effect of God's plan to send a Savior for the fallen, sinful human family.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, "The Divine Service" (*Rite Two*)

Hymns: 491 (1-5), Amazing Grace, 402, 491 (6)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Genesis 3:8-15.* Eternal death—the damning separation from God—is what Satan brings into the world, when the first humans believe the devil instead of the kind and generous Creator. But what is God's response to the total wickedness of human sinful rebellion? THE Promise! Only the Promised Seed saves; only the promise itself restores the fallen from unbelief and death to faith and life. And the cause of it all? Grace, pure grace and nothing but grace.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 51a.* In confession we recognize that our need is absolute, our merit nonexistent and our only sure salvation the promise of grace in the Promised Seed (Supplement).

*Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18.* Even after the mighty Word of grace has created faith, we still live in the sinful world with sinful flesh; both bear witness to the destructive power of Satan and sin. In all the consequent afflictions, what then should be our strength and stay? What else but the promise! Although like our Jesus, at times despised and defeated in this broken world of sin, God preserves us by the power of His and will at last raise up with Him in glory.

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 5:19, EHV)

*Gospel: Mark 3:20-35.* Jesus Christ alone is Savior. People we might most expect to know that and believe that truth, however, can fall short of expectations. Jesus' own earthly family had misgivings about His work; the religious leaders of His day actively opposed Him. To this day many fail to understand Him, and some even consider Him in league with the devil. But behold His grace! He stayed to save. He continues with His Word to draw a family to Himself. Notice the singular nouns in verse 35: by grace and by the Word of promise it is as though I were His only brother, sister, or mother. So total is the redemption; so intimate is the connection.

*Sermon: Mark 3:20-35*

*Theme - "Be A True Spiritual Member Of Jesus' Family"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Moses records the contrast between Satan's death and damnation and the LORD's life and salvation. Our saving God records for us the first promise of the Savior in Genesis 3:15. It's certainly fitting for us to meditate on it and memorize it.
- Epistle: Even after God in His grace has created faith in our hearts, we continue to live in the sinful world and carry with us our sinful natures. To what do both still bear witness?
- Gospel: What was the reaction of Jesus' own family to His claim as the Messiah, the Savior of the world?
- Gospel: Who, then, is truly a member of Jesus' family?

## Announcements:

+ Bible Class – please join us every Sunday morning for Bible class at 8:00 a.m. We continue to study the book of Psalms!

**Genesis 3:8-15** – They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. (EHV™)

**2 Corinthians 4:13-18** – Since we have that same spirit of faith, which corresponds to what is written: “I believed; therefore, I have spoken,” we also believe, and therefore we speak. For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks. Therefore, we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal. (EHV™)

**Mark 3:20-35** – They went into a house. A crowd gathered again so that they were not even able to eat a meal. When his own people heard this, they went out to take control of him, because they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” The experts in the law who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He drives out demons by the ruler of demons.” Jesus called them together and spoke to them in parables. “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand but is finished. On the other hand, no one can enter a strong man’s house to steal his possessions unless he ties up the strong man first. Then he can plunder his house. Amen I tell you: Everything will be forgiven people, their sins and whatever blasphemies they may speak. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” Jesus said this because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” Then his mother and his brothers arrived. While they were standing outside, they sent word to Jesus, calling for him. A crowd was sitting around him. They began to tell him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are outside looking for you.” He replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” He looked at those who sat around him in a circle and he said, “Look, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” (EHV™)

### **Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.