

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1: STUDENT

Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree

Genesis 1:27; 3:8–15; Romans 5:12–21

OPENING

Pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Advent 1, *LSB Altar Book*, p. 840)

INTRODUCTION

Along with Christmas trees and Advent calendars, many Christians today follow some form of Jesse Tree tradition to mark the season of Advent. For each day in Advent, a Bible story is read and an ornament with a symbol connected to that story is hung upon a tree. Not surprisingly, the creation and fall (Genesis 1–3) are usually the first stories read. Likewise, this lesson takes us back to the beginning to see where the story of the Jesse Tree (which is the Jesus Tree!) has its seed.

QUESTIONS

1. Jesse, the father of David, appears in the genealogies of Jesus given in both Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:23–38. While he is a crucial link in the chain, he certainly is not the main character. Compare Matthew 1:1–2, 17 with Luke 3:23, 38. What emphases does each evangelist make in structuring Jesus' genealogy in different ways?
2. What does Genesis 1:27 teach about humanity? How is the situation altered after the fall, according to Genesis 5:1–5?
3. According to Genesis 3:7–15, what does the introduction of sin into the world do to Adam and Eve? How do they try to deal with their sin, and does this pattern continue still today? How does God deal with sin?
4. In Romans 5:15–19, how does Paul make use of Adam's sin in service of the Gospel? Do these verses mean that eternal life is a gift *received* by all human beings? Why or why not? Compare with Romans 3:22–25.
5. How does God's Word characterize Satan? See Matthew 4:1–4, John 8:42–44, and 1 John 5:19–21. According to 2 Corinthians 11:2–3, what is the serpent's primary goal today?

6. In the Old Testament, the first offspring of the Jesse Tree is King David, and the Messiah (Christ) would be called “Son of David.” In Matthew 22:41–46, how does David himself demonstrate Jesus’ ability to fulfill so many different roles for us as Savior?

CONCLUSION

“So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours . . . all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s” (1 Corinthians 3:21–23). As sinners, we are constantly selling ourselves short. We want to have it all, but we fail to find the “all” by looking for it in the creation rather than in the Creator, by trying to save our lives in this world rather than looking to the Savior. If, by faith, we embrace the fact that we really do have it all in Christ—forgiveness of sins without measure, life and salvation now and forever—we will be able to drive out that seed of doubt that suggests God is holding out on us, and we can enjoy being grafted into the tree of the Seed of Jesse’s tree, Jesus.

CLOSING

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, You were the blessed Seed promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and You preserved Your line through Jesse so that You could be both David’s Son and David’s Lord in Your incarnation. May we who lost the gift of righteousness through the fall of Adam rejoice that we have been more gloriously restored through Your saving work on our behalf; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.