**2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

“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.” *Genesis 3:15*

**AS WE GATHER**

As the family is the shape of our lives on earth, so is family God’s design for eternity. When Adam and Eve succumbed to Satan’s lies and were lost to God, He was relentless in working to restore them and their children. He delivered up His own Son to rescue and redeem us and make us His children once again. God’s family is all those who are bound by blood—the blood of Christ—and who have been born anew, adopted, and marked as His own. Satan’s claim on us is paid in Christ so that we might be free to be the children of God, to call God Father, and to know and trust in His gifts, grace, and promises. This is our identity today by Baptism and faith, and this is our future in everlasting life.

**OPENING SONG** *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* (*LSB* 657)

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;

He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe.

With craft and dreadful might He arms Himself to fight.

On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat’ning to devour us,

we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow’r us.

Let this world’s tyrant rage; in battle we’ll engage.

His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

God’s Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;

for God Himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,

though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.

The Kingdom’s ours forever!

**READINGS** Genesis 3:8-15, 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1, Mark 3:20-35

**SONG OF THE DAY** *“The Tree of Life”* (*LSB* 561)

The tree of life with ev’ry good in Eden’s holy orchard stood,

and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.

Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;

its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.

The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove

with tempting voice Eve to beguile and Adam too by sin defile.

O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,

its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace:

in sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need—

for on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,

would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s head!

Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame flows life eternal in His name;

for all who trust and will believe, salvation’s living fruit receive.

And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,

to find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev’ry good.

**MESSAGE “*Forest for the trees”***

**CLOSING SONG** *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”* (*LSB* 922)

Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—you are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story; here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you; here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.

**+ PREPARATION and SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

 *Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have so faithfully nourished us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept us in the communion of this congregation. Bless, protect, and defend us as we depart to home and work. Preserve us against unbelief, division, and conflict, that our fellowship may be marked with compassion, kindness, and forgiveness, until we know at last the joys of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION and CLOSING SONG