

We hear the story of the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden and of their disobedience. This moment has come to be known as the Fall.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS: (2:15-17; 3:1-7)**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 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 middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not 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 loincloths for themselves.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**PSALM 32** *(8am spoken, 10am sung)*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.
- <sup>6</sup> I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of  
trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- <sup>8</sup> You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>9</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

- <sup>10</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."
- <sup>11</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- <sup>12</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Paul points out that the coming of sin into the world has been overcome by the gift of Jesus Christ, the new Adam.

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans: (5:12-19)**

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just 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.

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*