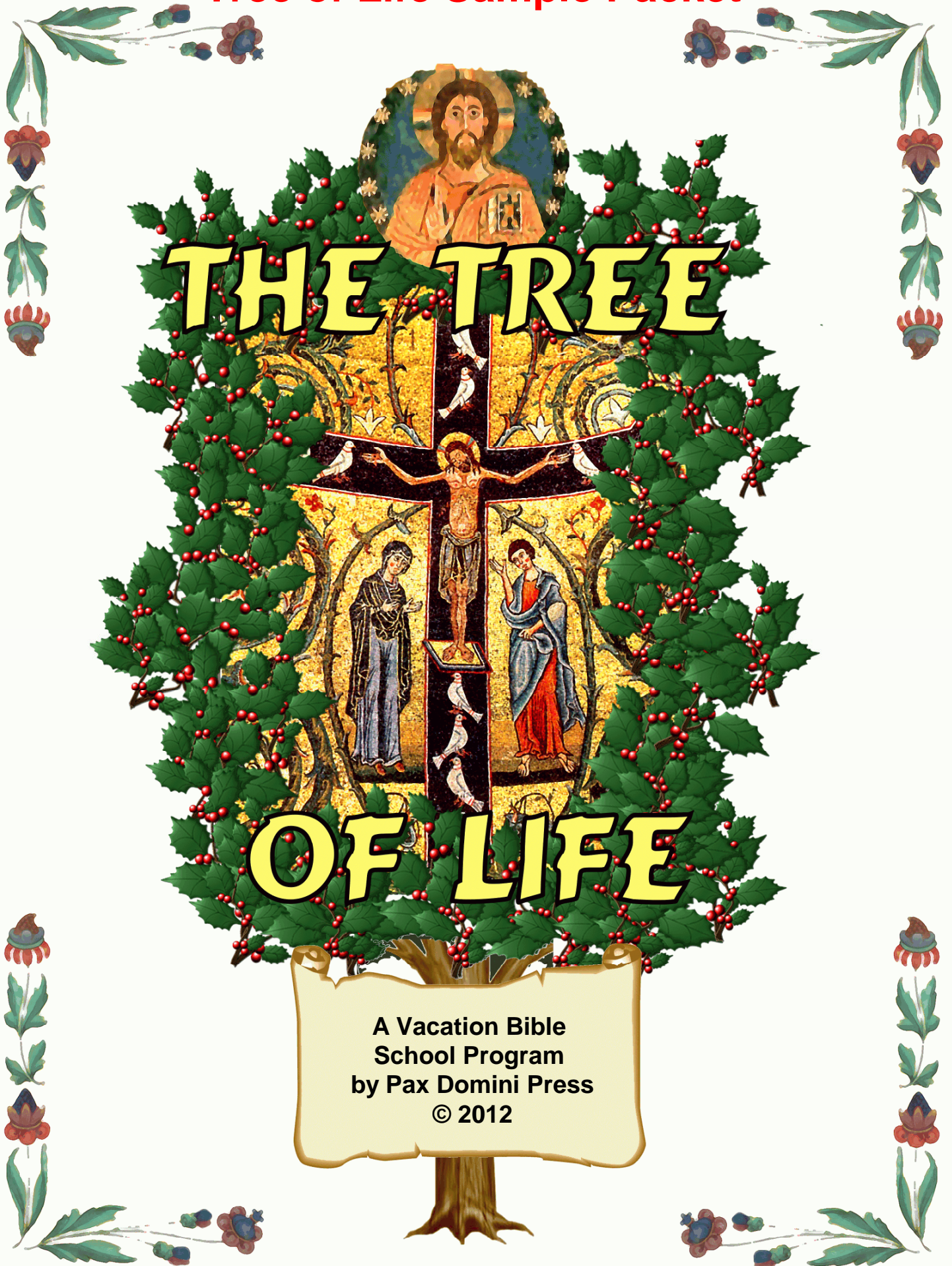


# Tree of Life Sample Packet



# THE TREE

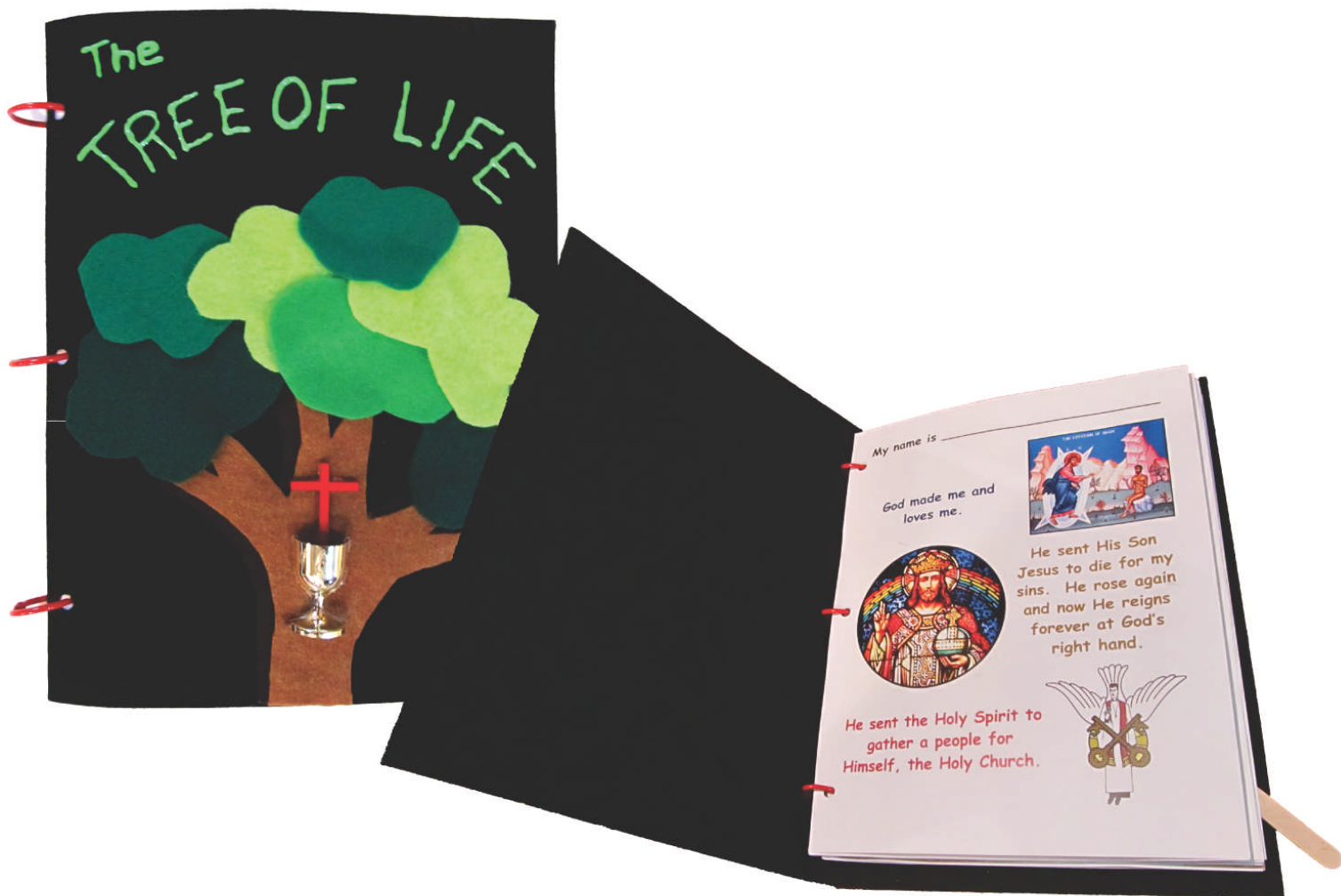
# OF LIFE

A Vacation Bible  
School Program  
by Pax Domini Press  
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## Craft Sample

The craft for "The Tree of Life" is a lap book which reviews the main themes of the week as well as remembers some of the other fun things that happened during VBS.

Most of the materials can be purchased at a craft store. Craft kits can also be purchased at [paxdominipress.com](http://paxdominipress.com).









Lesson 1

The Promised Seed

Genesis 3

Memory

Genesis 3: 15 – And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.



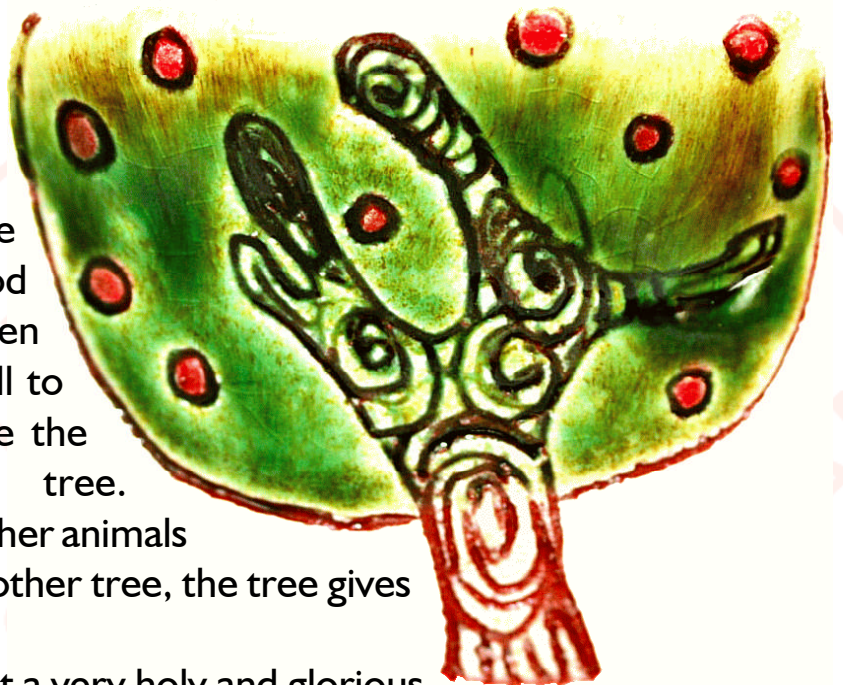
Introduction

This week we are going to learn about the Tree of Life. Let us think about a tree for a bit.

Where does a tree come from? It comes from something so small and tiny, we can hardly believe that such a huge tree would come from it. That small and tiny thing is a seed. The seed is planted into the ground, and a few days later, it emerges from the ground as a small plant. The plant grows and grows and grows, and one day that plant may become a huge tree.

Then the tree will produce fruit, and the fruit becomes food for birds, other animals, and even us humans. Or the fruit may fall to the ground, and the seed inside the fruit may become another tree. Whether the tree gives fruit to other animals or drops its seeds to become another tree, the tree gives life.

We are going to learn about a very holy and glorious tree called the Tree of Life. This tree does not just give us life. It gives us eternal life, a life that will never end.





## The Creation of the Tree of Life

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He created everything. He created the light and darkness, the earth and sky, the land and sea. On the third day He also made plants and trees. He made plants that yield seeds, so that more and more plants could grow from those first plants.

After He made the plants and trees, He also made the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and finally He made all the animals that live on the land. He also made the first man and the first woman.

The man was named Adam, and the woman was named Eve. God made them in His own image, and He placed them in a garden, the Garden of Eden.

In the middle of the Garden of Eden God made two trees. One tree was called the Tree of Life. The other tree was called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Tree of Life was there to give Adam and Eve eternal life. If they ate from this tree, they would never die.

The other tree was different. This tree gave death. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of this tree, they would surely die.



## Adam and Eve Disobey God

One day Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, and the devil came up to Eve in the form of a snake. The snake tempted Eve to eat of the Tree of the





Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was the tree that God said they should never eat from! But Eve listened to the snake, and she ate from this tree. She then gave the fruit to Adam, and he ate the fruit as well.

Immediately after they ate the fruit from this tree, both Adam and Eve knew they had sinned against God. They disobeyed His commandment. They were afraid of Him and tried to hide from Him. But no one can hide from God!

God found Adam and Eve and said to Adam, “Have you eaten from the tree I told you not to eat from?”

Adam said, “The woman gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

Then Eve said, “The snake tricked me. That’s why I ate of it.”

God then said to the snake, “Cursed are you! I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Because Adam and Eve sinned, they would have to die now. But God promised them that one day a Savior would be born. This Savior would be a descendant of Adam and Eve. He would crush the head of the devil. He would destroy the devil’s power. No longer would people die! No longer would we be cursed for our sins!

## Adam and Eve Must Leave the Garden

God promised Adam and Eve that a Savior would come one day from their children, but this was going to happen long, long after they died. In the meantime, the Lord God said, “The man cannot eat of the Tree of Life, or else he will live forever.” So He sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and put an angel there to guard the way, so that they could never come back in.





Many years later, God kept His promise. His Son Jesus was born. Jesus is God's Son, and He is also a descendant of Adam and Eve. On the day that He was born, shepherds saw heaven opened up.

Long ago, God closed the way to the Tree of Life.  
But now that Christ has come, the way to the Tree of Life is opened again!



## Lesson 2

# The Buried Seed

John 12: 24-25



### Memory

John 12: 24-25 – “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

### Introduction

We are learning about the Tree of Life. God created Adam and Eve and put them in a garden. In this garden were two trees, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of this second tree.

Adam and Eve did not obey God, and they received the curse of death. Now all people sin, and all people die. But God promised Eve that from her seed a Savior would be born. He would crush the head of the devil and save them from sin and death. This Seed is Jesus!

Because Adam and Eve sinned, God closed the way to the Tree of Life. He put an angel at the way into the Garden of Eden.

But when Jesus was born, the way was opened back to the Tree of Life. In fact, Jesus *is* that Tree of Life!

Today, we learn about Jesus the Seed. Before He became the Tree of Life, like a seed He had to die and be buried into the ground.



Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit (seen here as a dove from heaven) and born of the Virgin Mary

Look at the picture here and see how heaven opened up when Jesus was born. Can you find the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?



## Who is Jesus?

Let us review Who Jesus is. Read the following passages and follow the directions:

1. Luke 19: 10 – The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Mark 10: 45 – The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

The Son of Man is Jesus. In each passage, underline why Jesus came.

2. Matthew 16: 16 – Peter [said to Jesus], “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

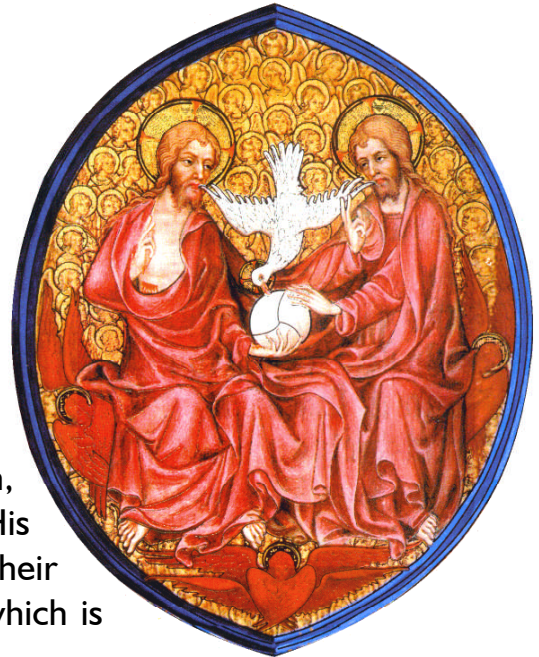
John 1: 1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word is Jesus. Fill out the blanks here:

Jesus is C \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is G \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is the S \_\_\_\_\_ of God.



3. Matthew 1: 20-23 – The angel said to Joseph, “[Mary] will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins”...and they shall call His name *Immanuel*, which is translated, “God with us.”

*Jesus* means “He will \_\_\_\_\_ His people from their \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Immanuel* means that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

4. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. God  
b. the Son of God  
c. Christ  
d. a man  
e. all of the above

## The Seed

Jesus is the Seed that God told Eve would crush the head of the devil. He is the Son of God, and God sent Him to die on the cross for our sins.

If we look at Jesus as a Seed, we learn many things about Him.

To learn about the Seed, read the following verse below, and then do the multiple choices that follow:

John 12: 24-26 – “[Jesus said,] “unless a [seed] falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

1. Seeds are \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. small
- b. big

2. Seeds look \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. exciting, golden, and beautiful
- b. small and dry, like they are dead; kind of boring



3. Before a seed can become a plant, it must \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. blow up like a balloon
- b. stop being a seed and become something else

4. The seed must \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. die first so that life can grow from it
- b. become bigger

Now fill in the blanks:

Jesus was the Seed. Before He gave out life, He had to \_\_\_\_\_

on the cross and be \_\_\_\_\_ in the tomb.



## The Death and Burial of the Seed

Jesus is the Son of God. He is “God with us.” He came to die for our sins and crush the devil and death. A seed dies, but then life “bursts” out of it. Jesus is the Seed. When He died, life burst out of Him too.

Listen to the teacher read John 19: 28-42 about the death and burial of Jesus. Answer the following questions:

After a seed dies and is buried, what begins to “burst” out of its shell?

After Jesus died, what “burst” out of Him?



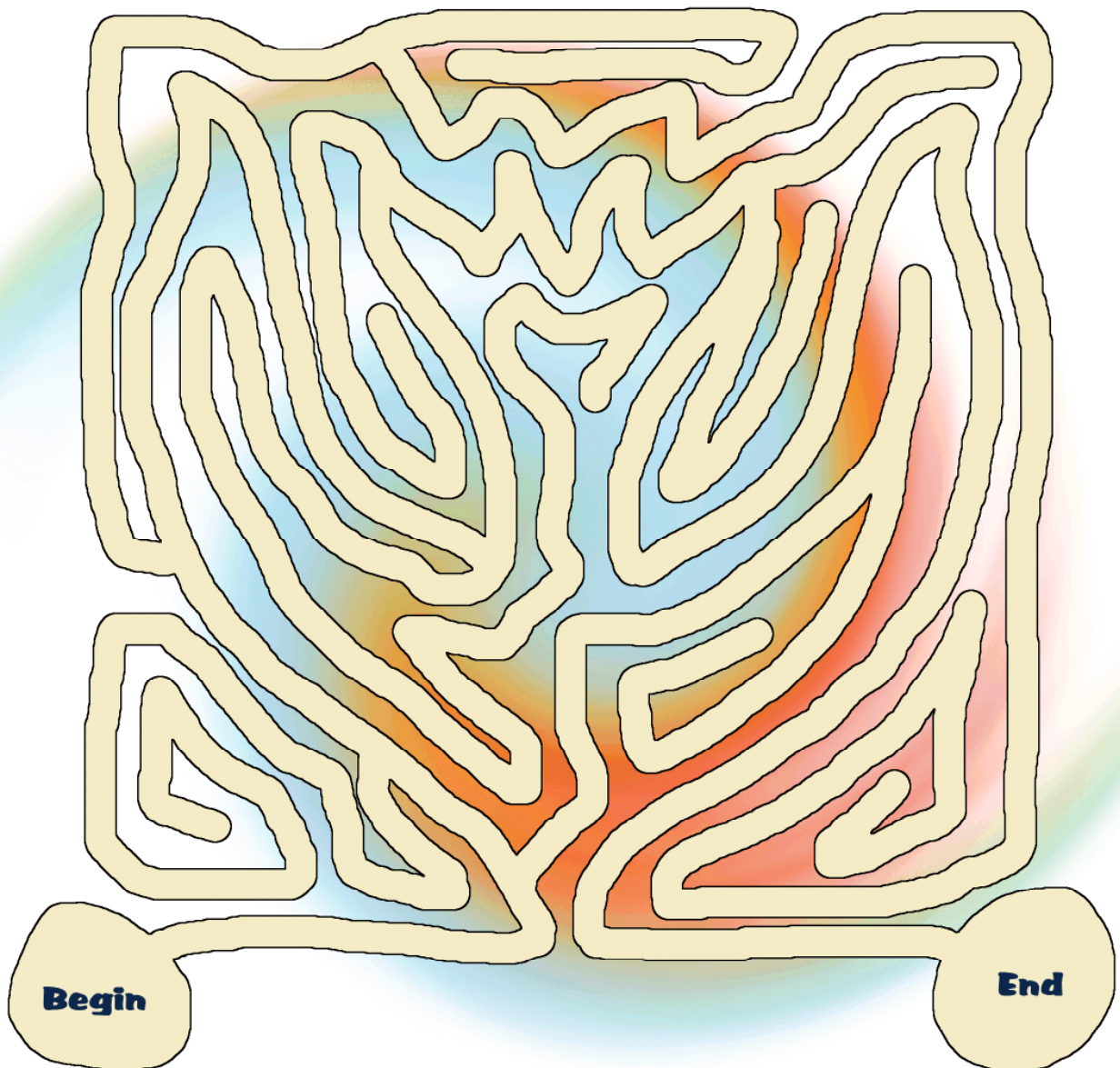
How does water give us life in Church?

How does the blood of Jesus give us life at Church?



### Activity: Maze

Something else came from Jesus when He died. Do the maze below and see what shape emerges. What is the shape? What does the shape represent?

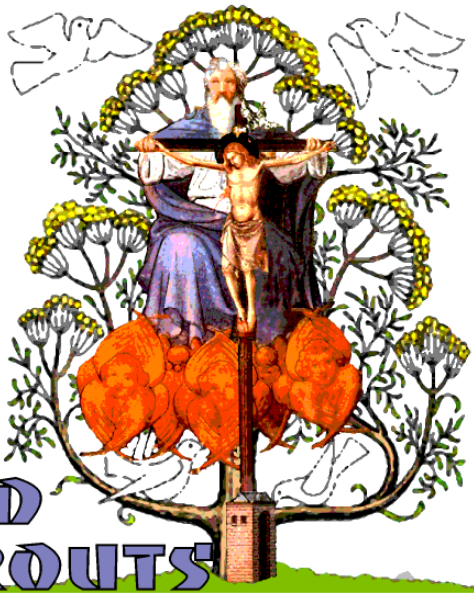


## Lesson 3

### The Seed Sprouts

Matthew 13: 31-32

# THE SEED SPROUTS



#### Memory

I Corinthians 15: 42 – “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.”

#### Introduction

After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised them that a Seed from Eve would be born one day. He would crush the head of the devil. He would destroy the power of sin and death in our world. This Seed was Jesus.

Seeds are not powerful and beautiful. They are small, dry, and humble. This is how Jesus was too. He was not beautiful. He did not look like a superstar. He was not a wealthy king in this world.

Jesus said that like a grain, or seed, He would fall to the ground, die, and be buried. But also like a seed, He would die, sprout, and produce many other seeds. Jesus did die on the cross, and He was buried. Today we learn how He “sprouted” from the ground and produced many other seeds.

#### The Mustard Seed

Read Matthew 13: 31-32. Answer the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like?
2. Is a mustard seed bigger or smaller than other seeds?
3. What happens to a mustard seed once it is buried?
4. What does the tree become for the birds?





A mustard seed is a very small seed. Who would ever think that a huge tree could grow from such a small seed? But this is exactly what happens. The small seed dies, sprouts, and reaches into the heavens as a great tree.

The same is true with Jesus and the Gospel. Who would ever think that from Jesus, the whole world would be saved? Jesus was born in a manger. He had a small group of followers. He was humble. He was poor. But yet, through Him the whole world was saved. He died, sprouted from the ground, and ascended into the heavens.

Just as a mustard tree provides nest for birds in its branches, so also does Jesus provide nest for all of us. We live in Him and find our life in Him.

### The Resurrection of Jesus: Jesus Sprouts

Jesus sprouted when He rose from the dead. Read the following verses and answer the multiple choice problems that follow:

I Corinthians 15: 3-4 – For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...

Luke 24: 39 – [After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples, showed them His body, and said,] “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

I Corinthians 15: 44 – [When the body dies and is buried, it] is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.



Romans 10: 9 – If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ believe that Jesus rose from the dead.
  - a. must, if we want to go to heaven,
  - b. do not have to
  - c. can if we want to
  - d. first must love each other and be good, and then if we want, we should
  
2. When Jesus rose from the dead, He was raised \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. only a spirit
  - b. only in our hearts and minds
  - c. in flesh and blood, with bones
  - d. a completely different person

3. When Jesus rose from the dead, His body was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. exactly the same
  - b. the same, but glorified as a spiritual body
  - c. like the body of a zombie
  - d. a totally different body than the one He had before

### The Ascension of Jesus: Jesus Reaches into the Heavens

Jesus sprouted when He rose from the dead, but like a tree rising into the sky, He also ascended way into the heavens. He now sits at God's right hand. Here at God's right hand, Jesus provides nest and shade for us, just like a tree. Also, like a tree Jesus grows fruits for us to eat, that give us life.

**Look at the following verses, and describe briefly after each verse what Jesus does for us now that He has ascended to God's right hand:**

1. Ephesians 4: 7-8 – But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."
2. John 20: 17 – Jesus said to her, "Go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

(Hint: What does Jesus share with us?)

3. John 16: 7, 14-15 – [Jesus said,] "It is [good] that I [return to the right hand of God]; for if I depart, I will send [the Holy Spirit] to you....[the Holy Spirit] will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. [The Holy Spirit] will take of Mine and declare it to you.

(Hint: What belongs to Jesus that He will give to us? How does He give these things to us?)

4. Romans 8: 34 – Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

(Hint: What is Jesus doing for us now at God's right hand?)

5. Ephesians 1: 20-23 – [God] raised [Jesus] from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

(Hint: What does it mean for us that Jesus has all things under His feet?)





These verses say many things about what Jesus is doing for us now at God's right hand. Like a mustard tree, He has given us much shade and nest!

He gives us gifts. He shares with us what He has. We call God our Father just as Jesus does. He gives us everything that He possesses. We share His throne. We are in communion with God just as He is in perfect unity with God. He intercedes for us, praying for us. He forgives our sins. He rules over all our enemies – sin, death, and the devil – for us.

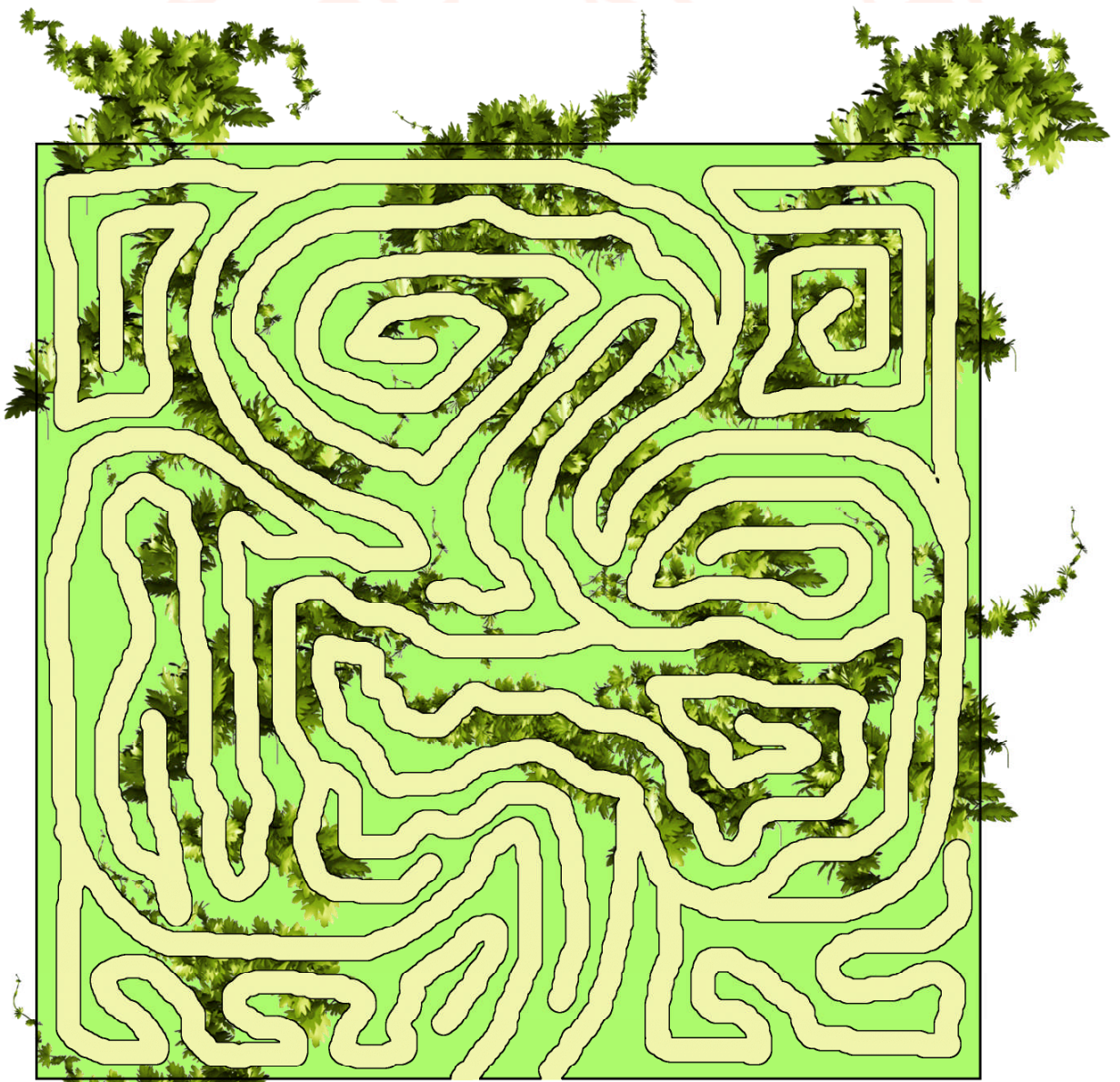
All these things He gives to us by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit declares these things to us by the Word of God. By the Word of God, we believe all these things to be true.

## Activity

Complete the maze here.

What shape emerges?

What is the meaning of this shape?



End Begin

## Lesson 4

# The Vine and Branches

John 15: 1-8



### Memory

John 15: 5 – "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

### Introduction

Jesus was the Seed promised to Adam and Eve. God promised that this Seed would crush the head of the devil. The devil has power over us because of our sins, but when Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, the devil lost all his power over us.

When Jesus died, He was buried like a seed or grain of wheat. But just like a seed, He also sprouted from the dead with new life. Then, just like a small mustard seed, He grew up tall and reached all the way into the heavens. Jesus ascended all the way to the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

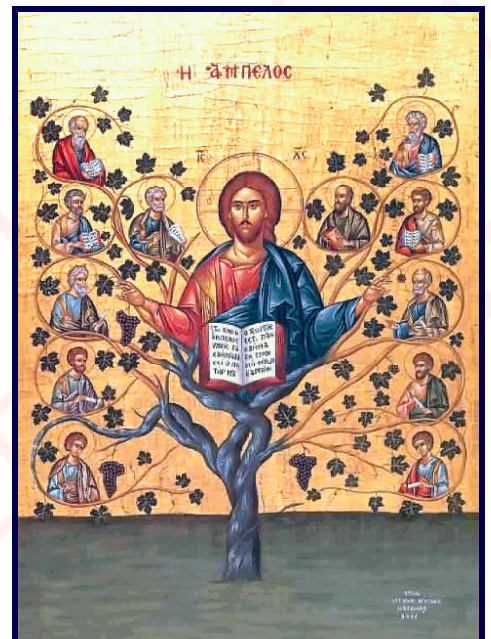
The way to heaven was shut when Adam and Eve sinned. God shut the door and put an angel with a flaming sword there. But now that Jesus has died for our sins, rose again, and ascended to God's right hand, the way to heaven is opened again.

Jesus is compared to a mustard tree. He also compares Himself to a vine. He is a vine that reaches up into the heavens, and we are the branches of that vine. Today, we learn how we follow Jesus where He has gone. We learn how we become part of Jesus

### The Vine and the Branches

Read John 15: 1-8. Answer the following questions:

1. What does Jesus say He is?
2. Who is the Vinedresser?
3. What does the Father do with the branches that do not bear fruit?
4. What does the Father do with the branches that bear fruit?





5. What is the only way we will bear fruit?
6. In verse 3, why are the disciples already clean?
7. How do we abide in Jesus, according to verse 7?
8. How is the Father glorified, according to verse 8?

Jesus is a Vine that reaches into the heavens. Only if we are grafted into Him will we receive life. If we do not abide in Jesus, we will wither up and die. If we are grafted into Jesus and receive life from the Vine, we will live forever with Him in heaven.

How do we become part of Jesus?

Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also."

We have heard this verse before. Jesus is a seed, and He must die in order to produce much grain. Then Jesus says that just like Him, we must also hate our life in this world. We must also die! We must follow Jesus and die with Him, that we may also be raised with Him. Only by following Jesus in His death and resurrection will we be where He is.

Where is Jesus? At God's right hand. This is where we want to be as well!

How do we die and rise again, so that we may be where Jesus is?



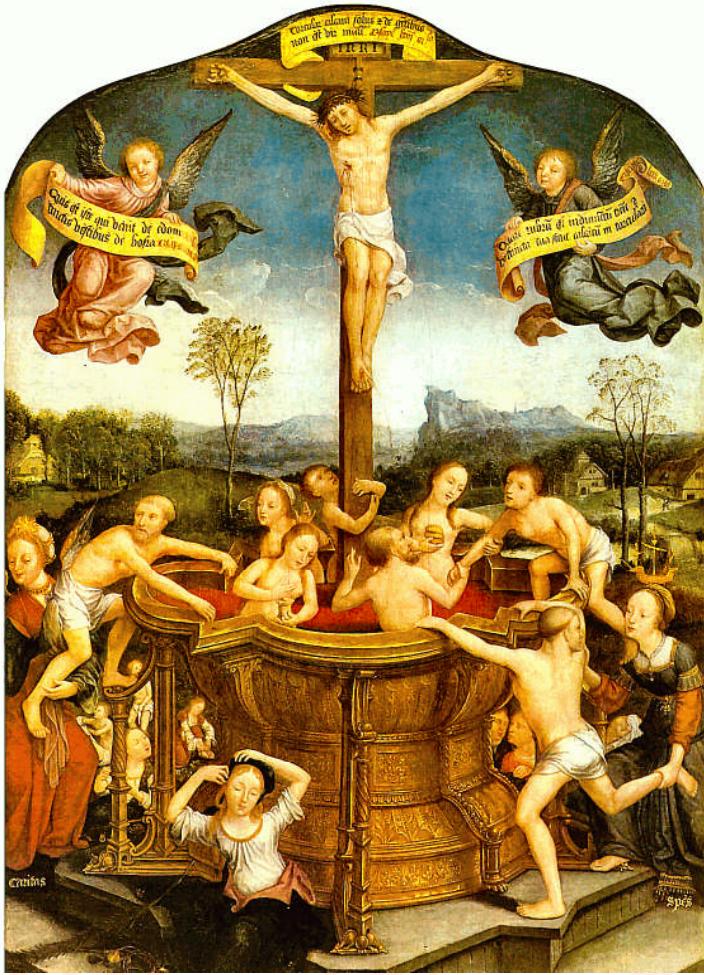
### **Holy Baptism: Dying and Rising with Jesus**

Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." We will never see death. So when Jesus says that we must die with Him, He doesn't mean the death we die at the end of our life. This is not death; this is sleep.

How then do we die?

*This is an ancient baptismal font. It is in the shape of a cross. We will learn why it is in the shape of a cross.*

## Bible Study: Dying and Rising with Jesus



Read Romans 6: 3-5. Where do we die and rise again with Christ?

Read Colossians 3: 1-4. Discuss the following questions:

1. When were we “raised with Christ”?
2. Why did Paul say “For you died”?
3. Where is our life hidden right now?
4. When will our true life appear?

Explain what is going on in this painting here?

Read Romans 8: 11. Who is the One Who gives us life, so that we might live one day?

Match up the following with the image of the Vine:

Jesus

The Holy Spirit

Us

The sap that gives life to the branches

The branches that receive life from the vine

The vine

Read John 20: 22-23. What is the life that the Holy Spirit gives us? What does the Holy Spirit give?

Read Acts 2: 38. What is the gift of the Holy Spirit? Where is this gift given?

If Jesus is the great tree or vine that reaches up into the heavens, the Holy Spirit is the sap that gives life to the branches. It is the forgiveness of sins that the Holy Spirit gives us when we are baptized and throughout our lives. When we are baptized and when we abide in the Word of Jesus, we receive that sap. As branches, we will live and produce fruit so long as we are baptized and abide in the Word of Jesus.



## Holy Communion: Abiding In His Love

Jesus says, "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." How do we abide in Christ's love?

Christ says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." Jesus laid down His life for us when He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus also says, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

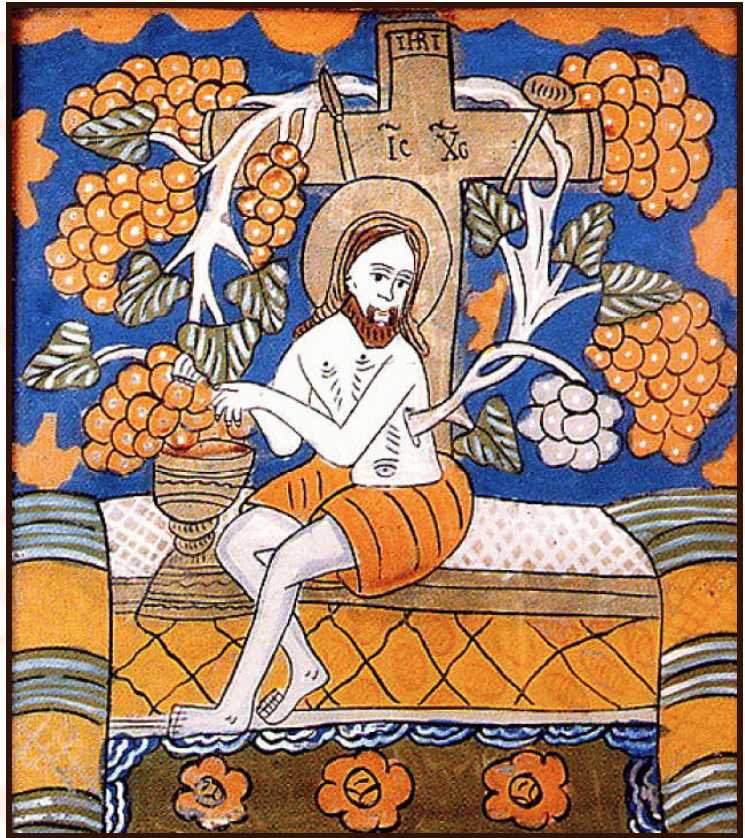
At Holy Communion, we receive the life that Jesus died on the cross to give us. At Holy Communion, we eat Christ's body and drink His blood, and we have eternal life. At Holy Communion, we abide in His love.

Jesus wants us to love others as He loved us. He wants us to give up our lives for others. This is why after communion we pray that we might have "fervent love for one another."

Jesus was the Seed that died, was buried, sprouted, and produced fruit, but what happens to the fruit that is produced? What happens to apples at the end of autumn?

They too fall to the ground, die, sprout, and produce their own trees.

The same is true with us. The fruit that we produce, through death and "sprouting," will produce much more fruit.



What is Jesus doing in the picture here?

What is Jesus sitting on?

How do we abide in Jesus at Holy Communion?

Read James 3: 17-18. Describe some of the fruit that we produce by the Holy Spirit:

## The Tree of Life for Us Was Giv'n

Tune: LM (or, to the tune of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives")

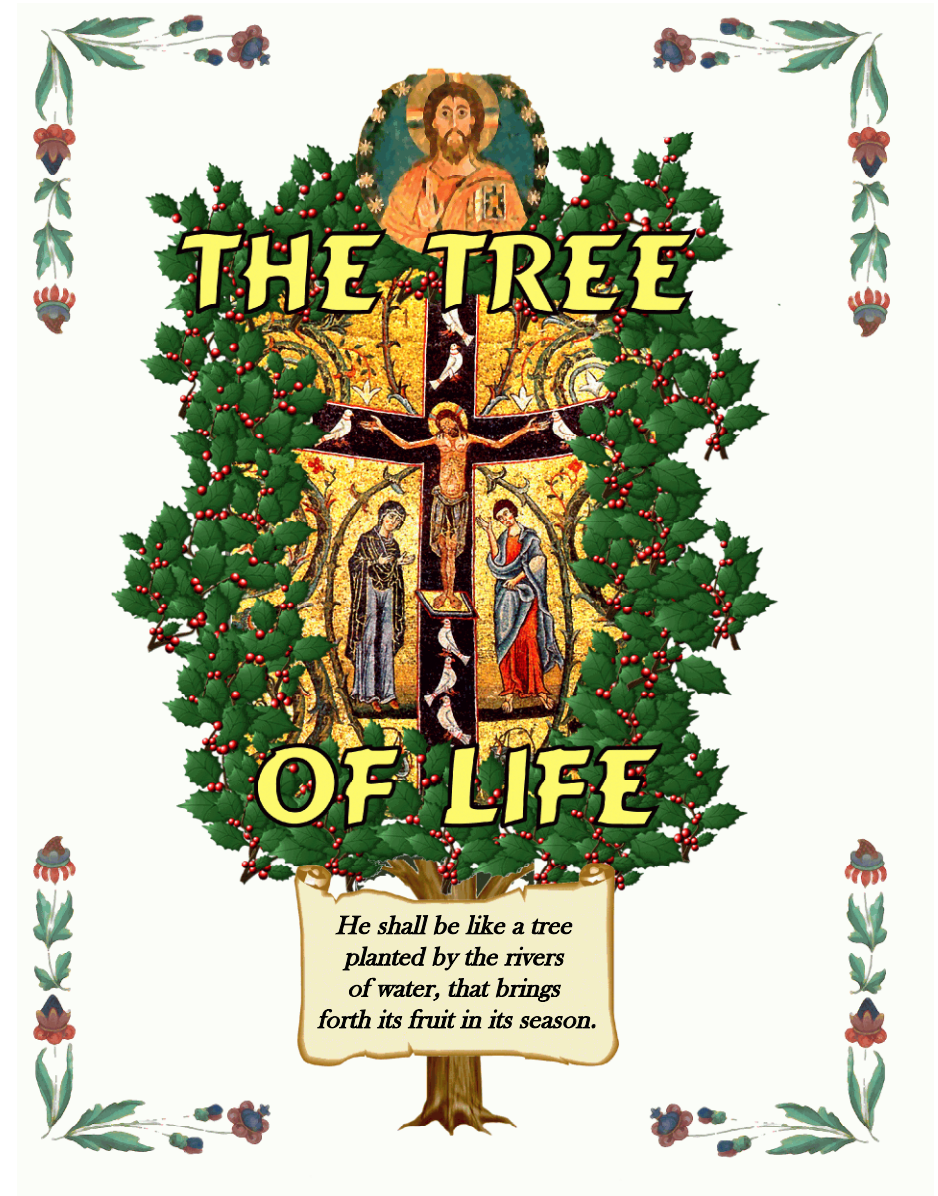
The Tree of Life for us was giv'n.  
Then did our father Adam sin.  
By him, we died; God saw our need:  
He promised us the Coming Seed!

This Seed is Jesus, sown in love  
By God our Father from above,  
A seed falls to the ground and dies.  
So did Christ Jesus do likewise.

A mustard seed, though small is blest.  
High in the sky it gives its nest.  
Arising and going up to heav'n,  
Christ lives and gives His life to men.

Christ is the Vine, and fruit He bears,  
Through all His branches in their prayers.  
Abiding in His cup and Word,  
Our deepest cries, by Him are heard.

Children that call upon His name:  
This is the harvest God shall claim.  
The Church's faith shall ever be  
For all the world a living Tree.



Daily Prayer



Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Children: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

**Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

Pastor: Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

**Children: Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;**

Pastor: But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

**Children: And in His law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season,

**Children: Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**

Pastor: The ungodly are not so,

**Children: But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.**

Pastor: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

**Children: Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

Pastor: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

**Children: But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn The Tree of Life for Us Was Giv'n [back page]**

**Brief Introduction to the Reading for the day**

**Scripture Reading:** Day 1: Genesis 3: (1-13) 14-24  
Day 2: John 12: 24-25  
Day 3: Matthew 13: 31-32  
Day 4: John 15: 1-8  
Day 5: Acts 2: (1-37) 38-42

**The Apostles' Creed** [reverse side]

**The Our Father** [reverse side]

**Prayers**

**Benediction**

### **The Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried,  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty  
From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.