

Advent Week 1 — Rooted in Promise | November 30, 2025

READ

Read the Scripture for the week:

- Genesis 2:8–17 — The tree we lost
- Genesis 3:22–24 — Banished from Eden
- Revelation 22:1–3 — The tree we will gain
- Galatians 3:13 — The tree that saves
- Optional: Acts 5:30, Romans 5:12–21

DISCUSS

Before diving into the sermon material, take a moment to share:

1. What is your earliest memory of a Christmas tree?

What emotions or themes does that memory bring up for you?

2. What is one **insight** or **"nugget"** from the sermon *Rooted in Promise* that stayed with you this week?

3. If someone asked you,

"Why do Christians even use Christmas trees?"

How would you have answered before this sermon?

COME AND SEE

The Christmas tree stands as a visual parable of the entire Bible—a story of **three trees**.

Use the questions below to explore the biblical and theological layers that the sermon introduced.

1. Why Is the Story of a Tree "Written Into Our Souls"?

Humanity has always been strangely drawn to trees—pagan cultures, medieval plays, Martin Luther's candlelit branches, and now the modern Christmas tree.

- How does the sermon suggest this longing is really an echo of **Genesis 1–3**?
- Read **Ecclesiastes 3:11**.

How might our longing for beauty, eternity, and renewal connect to God placing "eternity in the human heart"?

- What do evergreen trees symbolize even for non-believers?

2. The Tree We Lost — Eden & the Human Condition

Read Genesis 2:8–17 and 3:22–24.

- Why was God's restriction on the tree of knowledge not a punishment but **a protection**?
- How does the serpent's lie—"God is holding out on you"—mirror the lies we still believe today about scarcity?
- What do you think it means that access to the Tree of Life was blocked "for our good" (Gen. 3:22)?

How is that grace rather than punishment?

Cross-reference:

- **Romans 5:12–19** — How does Paul describe the global consequence of the first tree?

3. The Tree We Will Gain — The New Eden

Read Revelation 22:1–3.

- What is the significance of the Tree of Life now becoming a forest on both sides of the river?
- The text says: "No longer will there be any curse."

How does this reverse everything that happened in Genesis 3?

- How does the image of a flourishing, evergreen, fruit-bearing tree shape your understanding of eternal life?

Cross-reference:

- **Isaiah 55:12–13** — How does God's promise of restoration involve creation itself?

4. The Tree That Saves — Calvary

Read Galatians 3:13 and Acts 5:30.

- How does Scripture intentionally connect the cross with a **tree**?
- Why does the sermon call the cross the “dead tree that carried the Living God”?
- How does Christ “becoming a curse” on the tree purchase our way back to the Tree of Life?

Cross-reference:

- **1 Peter 2:24** — “He bore our sins in his body on the tree...”

5. The Christmas Tree as Decoration and Revelation

The sermon described the Christmas tree as a “*silent theologian*.”

In coming weeks we’ll be discussing:

- the **lights** | the **ornaments** | the **tree topper** | the **gifts** beneath it

Which of these resonates with you most deeply, and why?

FOLLOW ME

This section invites personal reflection and communal spiritual formation.

1. **Where have you recently felt the ache of “the tree we lost”?**

(brokenness, disappointment, regret, scarcity)

2. **Where do you sense God calling you to cling more deeply to the promise of “the tree we will gain”?**

(hope, healing, reconciliation, longing for eternity)

3. **How does the cross—the tree that saves—reshape the way you see your current struggles?**

How does it alter your view of God’s love?

4. **What part of your spiritual life feels “winter-like” right now?**

How might Jesus be inviting you into evergreen hope?

5. If someone asked you this week:

“What does a Christmas tree have to do with Jesus?”

How would you answer now?

GO AND BE

Put the story into practice this week.

1. Reflective Practice:

Sit near your Christmas tree (or picture one).

Meditate on the three trees—Eden, Calvary, New Creation.

Pray:

“Lord, root my hope in Your promise. Grow evergreen life in me.”

2. Conversational Practice:

Tell one person this week the story of the **three trees**.

Explain why the Christmas tree is not just decoration, but revelation.

3. Spiritual Practice:

Identify one area where you have believed a lie of scarcity.

Ask the Lord to replace it with the truth of **His abundant, evergreen life**.

4. Action Practice:

Place an ornament or a ribbon on your tree that symbolizes something God has redeemed—or something you’re trusting Him to redeem.

Bottom Line:

The Christmas tree in your home is not merely festive—it is a witness.

It points to the tree we lost, the tree that saved us, and the tree we will one day enjoy forever.

Evergreen hope is growing in you because Christ Himself is your Tree of Life.

