



October 12-13, 2024

The Mother of All Gifts

Genesis 3:20; 4:1-2



MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY
SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

Open Up the Heavens

Better Hands

Make Room

House of the Lord

CLASSIC | SUN 8:45 am

Lord I Need You

Come As You Are

MUSICAL OFFERING (PIANO):
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

On Our Way Rejoicing

MESSAGE: **Paul Dean**

Communion (Sat. 5:30)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Classic: Sun 8:45am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Download sermon resources: popmn.org/worship/downloads/
Find livestream, Spotify playlist and podcast links at popmn.org

Rehearsals for the Celebration Christmas Choir begin soon!

Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 pm. Contact agiebner@popmn.org

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

Join Prince of Peace! Register for new member classes!

Sundays, October 13-27 | 9:30 - 10:15 am | popmn.org/register

Engage Bible Study

Tuesdays at 6:30 am (Men's) | Wednesdays at 12:00 pm

Living a Life of Meaning and Purpose

Tuesdays | October 29 – November 19 | 1:00 pm | POP

Discover your strengths, values and passions: popmn.org/register

JOIN US FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Boo Bash | October 26 | 10:00 – 11:30 am

Host a trunk for trick-or-treating or volunteer: popmn.org/register

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Your gift supports mission and ministry. Thank you!



Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



Connect with Prince of Peace! Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.



Scan here to register your child for **Family Ministry**.



Scan here to make a **prayer request** or to have a member of the Spiritual Care Team contact you.

PAPER COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CONNECT DESK.

The Bible is complex and multi-layered, but it invites all of us to lean in and look closer as it reveals, story by story, who God is ... and also who we are.

From the beginning, we imagine a God that keeps speaking to us through these stories of redemption and hope. But along the way we've lost the fullness of the message. So much of the story can get lost in translation. Lost in the literal translation from Hebrew and Greek to English. Lost in different cultural contexts. Lost in repetition, lulling us into a familiarity that strips the story of its power.

It's like looking in a window. You can't always see the whole room from your vantage point. Sometimes you need a second window, or a third, in order to see into every corner. Sometimes you can never see the whole thing. It's an exploration, a discovery, that invites you to look again and again from new angles.

We are called to trust the story, turning each page with the desire to find what's been lost in translation.

Is Eve Evil?

What is your experience with the story of Adam, Eve, the serpent and the tree? How have you heard that story in the past? How does it make you feel? What words stand out? What images or impressions does it evoke?

Look at Genesis 3 in your Bible. Does it have a heading? What does the heading say? Does the heading influence the way you read the chapter?

Headings are different in different Bible translations, and they were added relatively recently by editors. The heading for Genesis 3 in your Bible might say something about sin, punishment, temptation, or the fall. When you read through the chapter, does the actual text mention any of those words?

Read the chapter again, but try to read it like you'd read a poem. Instead of a literal narrative or science text, imagine Genesis 3 as a coming-of-age story. Read Genesis 3:7 and 3:11 while thinking about your own childhood, running around outside in just diapers at first, but then gradually morphing into someone who is perhaps embarrassed to change clothes in the locker room. You don't know you're naked when you're little, and then one day you do.

Imagine Eve as a teenager who is growing up, ready to leave her parents' home (the Garden) and head out into the wide world on her own. The Garden is lush, protective and full of provision, but Eve reaches for wisdom anyway. Why would she do that? Is a desire for knowledge a punishable offense? Does God prefer us to be ignorant?

Is this a story about Eve, or could it be a story about the way we're all created and wired for lives of joy and struggle? Could it even be a story about how we are called, as children of God, out of our comfortable Garden and into a world that needs our creativity, our voice, and our curiosity? Eve, after all, is named the Mother of All Living Things as she leaves the garden, not while she's in it. Could this story be about vocation and calling? Are we created to stay in the Garden, or were we meant to leave it? Is Eve responsible for humanity's downfall, or is she the one who is courageous enough to leave her life of comfort in order to bless the world?

Imagine handing your 16-year-old child the car keys, and watching her drive away from home and safety into a world full of potential danger, not sure if she'll be okay. Parents do this all the time, despite the risk, as a gesture of love. We're *supposed* to set our children free and watch them fly into a world of joy and heartbreak, connection and danger, even though it can feel counter-intuitive.

Read Genesis 3:21. Is God punishing the humans, or providing for their growing consciousness? What is the nature of this God? What is God like?