



## Midweek Meditation



*"And He drove man out, and He stationed to the east of the Garden of Eden the cherubim and the flame of the turning sword for the purpose of guarding the way to the tree of life." Genesis 3:24*

*The tree of life had the power of preserving life because of the Word; it would have preserved life also for Adam. But God, being angry, was unwilling to permit him to return to that tree after his fall, not only in order to remind him of the sin he had committed, but also because Adam already had a better promise, namely, that the Seed of the woman would crush the seed of the serpent... Thus an angry father may stop short of depriving his son of his right of inheritance, but he may punish him by throwing him out of the house. Martin Luther*

God was an angry Father in driving His children out of the house He had built for them. Yet, He would give them another house to live in forever (John 14:2; Hebrews 11:10). God was unwilling to allow Adam and Eve to be restored to life by eating of the tree of life within the Garden. Instead, He had selected another tree, that of the cross, to be that which gives life to all who eat of its fruits in faith. The fruits of our tree of life upon which the promised Seed, Jesus, hung are given to us through Holy Baptism and the Holy Supper. Eating these fruits in faith, we are restored to life with God and are given the blessed hope of Paradise with Him.

*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. Amen!*