

# Advent Readings Day 5

The serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field the Lord had made. That ancient serpent. The devil. Satan. He is a liar and a murderer. It has always been his nature. He has always sought to burn to rubble the beauty of God. It is tragic that our story has to unfold this way, but it is necessary. For a moment, the light will seem to be swallowed up, but there will be redemption.

The serpent spoke with deception, " Did God actually say you shall not eat from any tree in the garden?" He knew the truth, but he was repulsed by truth and delighted in evil.

The woman answered, "We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, but of the tree in the middle of the garden, we can not eat."

"You will not die," the devil scoffed. "Your eyes will be opened to see all that God sees. All that is right and wrong."

The man and woman believed the lie and, by doing so, disbelieved God. They ate, and their eyes were, in fact, opened. Shame rushed to the garden like a dragon and devoured peace. Guilt washed over them, and fear clothed them.

Adam and Eve rushed to hide and hurried to clothe their nakedness. They dreaded the moment God would come to meet them. What could be their end now but death? What place could they flee from the presence of God? If they flew to the heavens, he would be there. If they buried themselves in the depths of the grave, he would find them with ease. Should they plunge themselves to the depths of the seas, he would bring them up. Darkness would never be dark enough to conceal them.

Sin had come and brought with it a plague to curse all humankind. Through one man, Adam, sin had found its entrance to the world and would therefore spread to all people bringing death to each soul. But sin would learn it was no match for the glorious grace of God.