

Online Edition
God's Promise to Abraham

September 20, 2020

Online

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Rob)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Rob)*

L: Blessed be the Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Silence for individual reflection.)* Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW #768

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Assistant)*

L: God of the covenant, As you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night.

C: Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING *(Kim Fokken)*

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the LORD came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:52-59

The Jews said to him, ‘Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, “Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.” Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, “He is our God”, though you do not know him. But I know him; if I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.’ Then the Jews said to him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Vicar Stephanie Luedtke

SONG OF THE DAY

“Indescribable”

Laura Story/Dan Galbraith

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*Assistant*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW #691

BIBLE MILESTONE

(Invite families to come up, parents to take the Bible with their child’s name on it, and to stand apart from other families.)

L: Parents, at your children’s baptism, you made a promise to place in your child’s hands the Holy Scriptures. Congregation, you made a promise to support families in keeping their baptismal promises. Children, you will make these promises for yourselves when you affirm your baptism in 9th grade. This is why we provide age- appropriate Bibles to children at their Baptism, at 4 years old, in 2nd grade, and in 6th grade. It is our desire to support you and your family as you grow in faith.

Parents, as you hand your child their Bible, please repeat after me:

“(Say your child’s name,) at your baptism, I promised to place the Holy Scriptures in your hands. Please take this Bible to help you grow in faith.”

Let us pray. Word of Life, you speak to us through your Word. Please bless these families as they seek to learn more about you, and to grow in faith together. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

C: 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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION (*Rob*)

L: The God of all grace, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

ELW #535

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE