

*Journey through Genesis*  
**SERVICE OF THE WORD - Summer 2020**  
*The 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the faith community of*  
**Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church**



## **GATHERING**

### **Announcements**

*As you prepare for worship, even gathered in virtual community and connected by God's beautiful and unfathomable design, you are invited to light a candle and center yourself to hear the Sacramental Word of God breaking into creation and you.*

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

God, we confess that we do not always understand Your ways.

We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing. We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult, and quick to question Your presence and Your power.

Forgive us.

Grant us patience to wait for Your good timing. Open our eyes to recognize Your leading in our lives—to listen for Your gentle whisper when we least expect it. And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience, trusting in Your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

We praise You for Your faithful love, and pray that You would make us worthy to bear Your name. **Amen.**<sup>i</sup>

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Gathering Song: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling #608**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **Kyrie for Time of Pandemic and Shedding Racism**

In peace and with repentant hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for a COVID-19 vaccine, for a creation centered on loving God and neighbor above self and material goods, for the well-being of the church of God, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help us to see our own racism, teach us to be anti-racist, protect and preserve us from COVID-19, save us, comfort us and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **Children's Message**

#### **First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7**

*God, in the form of three messengers, announces to Sarah and Abraham that they will have a child. Sarah, because of her advanced age, laughs at this seeming impossibility. But nothing is impossible for God, and in due course Isaac is born. Now, Sarah confesses, everyone will share in her joyous laughter.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

<sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

<sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He

said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

<sup>21:1</sup>The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup>Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." <sup>7</sup>And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

*I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*

I love the LORD, who has <sup>1</sup> heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup> supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup> ear to me  
whenever <sup>1</sup> I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- <sup>1</sup> pay the LORD  
for all the good things God has <sup>1</sup> done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup <sup>1</sup> of salvation  
and call on the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your <sup>1</sup> sight, O LORD,  
is the death <sup>1</sup> of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I <sup>1</sup> am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me <sup>1</sup> from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice <sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of <sup>1</sup> the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

### **Gospel: Matthew 9:35–10:8**

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

<sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." <sup>10:1</sup>Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

<sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Song of the Day: Lord of All Hopefulness #765

#### Prayers of Intercession (\*\* denotes brief silence)

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us join together to pray for the church, our nation, and for all who are in need, responding to each petition with the words, "***Graciously hear our prayer.***"

O God, the Holy One of blessing and surprise and laughter, send your Spirit of tender might throughout your church and to all its leaders, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Katherine. Strengthen the believers who cannot assemble for worship. Guide the church's use of technology, and make yourself known to those who have no access to such materials. \*\*

Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, the Holy One of truth, as today we commemorate the fourth-century theologians Basil, Gregory, Gregory, and Macrina, we pray for your Spirit on teachers, preachers, and missionaries. Empower the church as it uses both historic and innovative words to proclaim your gospel across the street and around the globe. \*\*

Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, Holy One of creation, continue your care for the earth. Where there was fire or flooding, drought or storm, bring renewal of the land. Bless farmers and ranchers, and protect migrant farm workers as they toil in the sun to harvest our food. Bless our church garden at Eden that it may nurture your people here. \*\*

Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, Holy One of unity, as we commemorate this week the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, who in 2015 were killed while assembled in their Charleston church for Bible study, we pray: end the scourge of racism and white supremacy; protect protestors; halt those who intend violence; preserve our democracy. Raise up leaders who model repentance and reconciliation, and support legislators who seek justice in our land. \*\*  
Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, Holy One of compassion, heal the sick, and embrace the fearful. Visit the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus. Protect us from the new waves of this disease. Uphold health care workers and medical researchers as they work on our behalf, especially the overrun health care systems in AZ, AR, SC, AL, NC, FL and OK. Assist the unemployed in finding jobs. Bless our sister Lynn as she leaves her role as Eden custodian and send us the one who will fill her shoes. Show us how to protect and accompany those experiencing homelessness in our nation and around the world. We pray also for those we name here: \*\*  
Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, Holy One of hope, sustain our region that is both blessed in isolation from the COVID-19 and racism, and challenged in grasping the horrible reality they create for so many of your children. Pour your grace into our hearts. \*\*  
Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

O God, Holy eternal One, we praise you for the lives of all the faithful departed, both the famous and the forgotten. Today we pray especially for the families of Dorothy Nebel, Donald Abson and Dr. John Adams. At the end of all things, bring to yourself all your treasured people, to abide in your presence forever. \*\*  
Your steadfast love is everlasting: **Graciously hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those desires too deep for words, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**<sup>ii</sup>

### **Peace (In ASL)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **Offering**

#### **Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

When we disciples ask Jesus how to pray, he teaches us, saying pray with words like these:

**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** *(based on Genesis 45:1-15)*

Loving God, like Joseph, son of Jacob, we don't always understand why things happen the way they do; why our plans and dreams fail, and we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment.

Yet, like Joseph, we also believe that You are at work in our lives, and that You have a larger plan and purpose for each one of us.

Give us faith to trust in You no matter what challenges we face.

Give us courage to place our dreams and ambitions in Your hands, and then follow where You lead without hesitation, confident that Your loving presence goes with us. **Amen.**<sup>iii</sup>

**Go in peace. Go in Love. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

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<sup>i</sup> Based on re:worship prayer, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/prayer-of-confession-commitment-august.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Based on prayers from <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2379/>

<sup>iii</sup> Based on re:worship prayer, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/prayer-of-commitment-genesis-451-15.html>