

*Journey through Genesis*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD – Summer 2020, June 28**

*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.**

**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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-14**

*Abraham was prepared to obey God's command amid extreme contradiction: the child to be sacrificed is the very child through whom Abraham is to receive descendants. God acknowledged Abraham's obedient faith, and Abraham offered a ram in the place of his son Isaac.*

<sup>1</sup>God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup>Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. <sup>9</sup>When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup>[The angel] said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 13**

*I trust in your unfailing love, O LORD. (Ps. 13:5)*

<sup>1</sup>How long, O LORD? Will you forget | me forever?  
How long will you hide your | face from me?

<sup>2</sup>How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day<sup>1</sup> after day?

How long shall my enemy triumph<sup>1</sup> over me?

<sup>3</sup>Look upon me and answer me, O<sup>1</sup> LORD my God;  
give light to my eyes, lest I<sup>1</sup> sleep in death;

<sup>4</sup>lest my enemy say, "I<sup>1</sup> have defeated you,"  
and my foes rejoice that<sup>1</sup> I have fallen. **R**

<sup>5</sup>But I trust in your un-<sup>1</sup> failing love;  
my heart is joyful because of your<sup>1</sup> saving help.

<sup>6</sup>I will sing<sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
who has dealt<sup>1</sup> with me richly. **R**

### **Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve] <sup>40</sup>"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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

### **Sermon**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

Although distant from each other, we are called to join together to pray for our needy world. In response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with the words Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ around the world.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for our own congregation and for its leadership.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the health of the earth – its lands, its seas, its animals.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who work in our fields and produce our food.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for peace between and within nations.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for President Trump, the Congress, and the Supreme Court.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for a right observance of the Fourth of July.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who are oppressed, or enslaved, or poverty-stricken.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for an end to racism.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for both protesters and police.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all who are sick.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all who are sick or sorrowing from the coronavirus.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for medical workers and researchers.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for families facing an unprecedented summertime.  
Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

We pray for Amy and Joel united in marriage this weekend. We thank you that they have found each other and pray their love and faithfulness may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life: **your mercy is great.**

Receive our praise, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

O God, the Holy One, you are yourself the cup of cold water we crave, relieving our deep thirst. Receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, for your mercy is great, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **A Special Prayer for the family and loved ones of Gene Knuttila**

Eternal God, you gave Gene a new birth in baptism and entrusted him to us to know and to love. As we thank you for the life we shared, help us now to release him to your mighty keeping. Bring us all to that day when we shall stand in your presence with all your saints in light eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**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/>