

*Journey through Genesis*  
**SERVICE OF THE WORD – Summer 2020, June 21**  
*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>1</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**

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Genesis 21:8-21**

*Sarah demands that Abraham send Hagar and her son, Ishmael, away. Abraham is distressed because he is Ishmael's father. Sarah wants to ensure that her son, Isaac, will be the one to inherit God's blessing. God, however, hears Hagar's cry and promises to also make of Ishmael a great nation.*

<sup>8</sup>The child [Isaac] grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." <sup>14</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. <sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup>Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup>God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17**

*Have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant. (Ps. 86:16)*

<sup>1</sup>Bow down your ear, O LORD, and <sup>1</sup>answer me,  
for I am poor <sup>1</sup>and in misery.

**<sup>2</sup>Keep watch over my life, for <sup>1</sup>I am faithful;  
save your servant who <sup>1</sup>trusts in you.**

<sup>3</sup>Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you <sup>1</sup>are my God;  
I call upon you all <sup>1</sup>the day long.

**<sup>4</sup>Gladden the soul <sup>1</sup>of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift <sup>1</sup>up my soul.**

<sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, are good <sup>1</sup>and forgiving,  
and abundant in mercy toward all who <sup>1</sup>call upon you.

**<sup>6</sup>Give ear, O LORD, <sup>1</sup>to my prayer,  
and attend to the voice of my <sup>1</sup>supplications.**

<sup>7</sup>In the time of my trouble I will <sup>1</sup>call upon you,  
for you will <sup>1</sup>answer me.

**<sup>8</sup>Among the gods there is none like <sup>1</sup>you, O Lord,  
nor anything <sup>1</sup>like your works.**

<sup>9</sup>All the nations you have made will come and worship <sup>1</sup>you, O Lord,  
and glori- <sup>1</sup>fy your name.

**<sup>10</sup>For you are great; you do <sup>1</sup>wondrous things;  
and you a- <sup>1</sup>lone are God.**

<sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mer- <sup>1</sup>cy on me;  
give your strength to your servant,  
and save the child <sup>1</sup>of your handmaid.

**<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be <sup>1</sup>put to shame;  
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- <sup>1</sup>forted me.**

**Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup>So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup>Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup>Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have

come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your love is kind."

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Protect believers who face persecution for your sake. Bless the work of evangelists and teachers like Onesimos Nesib, whom we commemorate today, as they translate their faith into other languages. Strengthen our pastors, deacons, and church councils for their ministry during these troubling times.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our ruler, inspire our president, our governors and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name silently before you now ...

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beloved, receive now the silent but heard petitions of our own hearts ...  
Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy.  
Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those 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

### A Prayer for Fathers in Our Lives

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers die too young or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, friends, pastors and coaches, mothers and aunts.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. **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 a prayer by the Rec. Chuck Currie