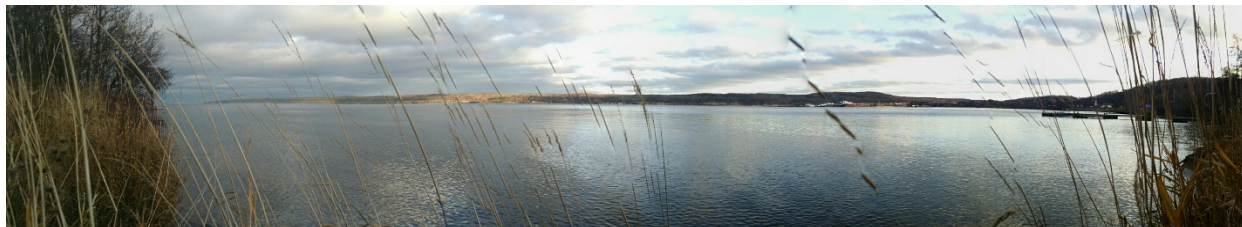


Journey through Genesis

SERVICE OF THE WORD – Summer 2020, July 12

The 115th 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.ⁱ**

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

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 25:19-34

Although Jacob was younger than his twin, Esau, he eventually takes the birthright away from his brother. Jacob is portrayed in the Bible as deceptive, gripping his brother when he came out of the womb and driving a hard bargain by buying the birthright for a bowl of lentils.

¹⁹These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light upon my path. (Ps. 119:105)

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp | to my feet
and a light up- | on my path.

¹⁰⁶**I have sworn and | am determined
to keep your | righteous judgments.**

¹⁰⁷I am | deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O LORD, according | to your word.

¹⁰⁸**Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute | of my lips,
and teach | me your judgments. R**

¹⁰⁹My life is al- | ways in danger,
yet I do not for- | get your teaching.

¹¹⁰**The wicked have set a | trap for me,
but I have not strayed from | your commandments.**

¹¹¹Your decrees are my inheri- | tance forever;
truly, they are the joy | of my heart.

¹¹²**I have applied my heart to ful- | fill your statutes
forever and | to the end. R**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Praying separately in our homes yet united in the Spirit, let us together intercede for all the needs of the 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, "Your mercy is everlasting."

We pray for our congregation and for all the churches in our neighborhoods.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for missionaries and for newly planted congregations around the world.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for those for whom growth in faith is difficult.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for farms and fields that are devastated by drought.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all animals in search of water.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for everyone who is suffering from the heat.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for the government of our country, state, and county.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for our society to be purged of racism.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for those without jobs or health care.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for medical workers and researchers.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all who are sick.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all who are burdened by anxiety.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray, each of us, for ourselves.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We thank God for Nathan Söderblom, whom we commemorate today, for all who were dedicated to ecumenism, and for all who have died in the faith.
O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

O merciful God, receive these prayers, and grant us your Spirit of peace and joy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Peace (In ASL)

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

THANKSGIVING OF 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.**

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.

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

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

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