

Journey through Genesis
SERVICE OF THE WORD – Summer 2020, July 19
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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the 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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv. 20-22).

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and

set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

¹LORD, you have | searched me out;
O LORD, | you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it. R**

⁷Where can I go then | from your Spirit?
Where can I flee | from your presence?

⁸**If I climb up to heaven, | you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you | are there also.**

⁹If I take the wings | of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts | of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your | hand will lead me
and your right hand | hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will | cover me,
and the light around me | turn to night,"

¹²**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright | as the day;
darkness and light to you are | both alike. R**

²³Search me out, O God, and | know my heart;
try me and know my | restless thoughts.

²⁴**Look well whether there be any wicked- | ness in me
and lead me in the way that is | everlasting. R**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and

at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

SERMON - Lon Hider

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways (*regions and nations in conflict may be named*). Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us (*especially*). Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our 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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Financial Snapshot

JUNE

<u>Income</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$ 8,964.00		\$13,951.28

2020 Year –to-Date

<u>Income</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$87,167.00*		\$66,127.14

**This Income figure does include
the Payroll Protection Loan.*