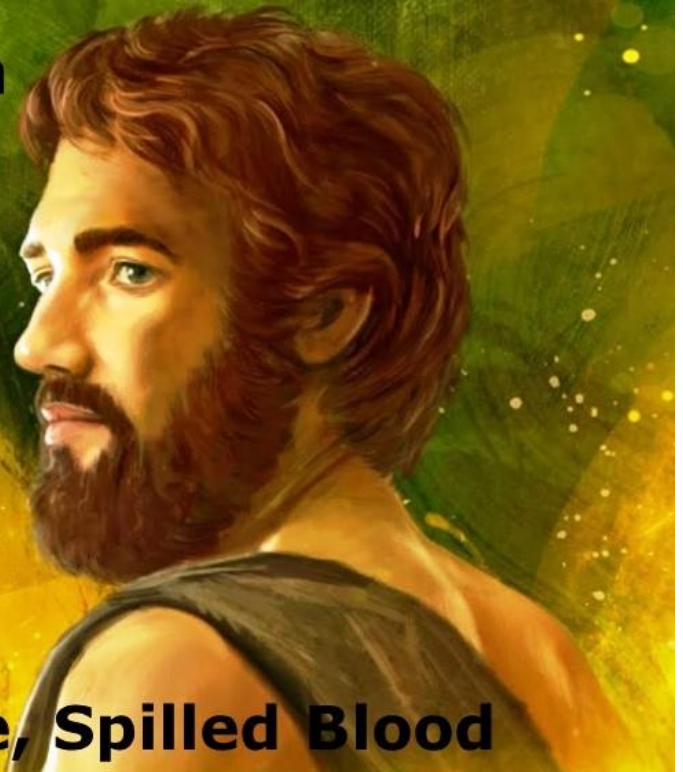


Heroes of the Faith

ABEL

Shepherd, Sacrifice, Spilled Blood



+ Advent 1 - Midweek +
Wednesday, November 30, 2022



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
(608) 365-3794

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us tonight!

Midweek Advent Meditative Worship

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Heroes of the Faith: Abel

FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS: Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please, no gaming, texting, or social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in our Crying Room. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen. (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in Portals of Prayer, April through June, 2011)*

PRELUDE

WORSHIP THEME: Advent looks to the past to prepare us for the future. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's First Advent when He became incarnate as man, we review the promises of God as we prepare for Christ's Second and Final Advent.

This year, our Midweek Advent services will feature four **Heroes of the Faith** as described in Hebrews 11. Tonight, we take a look at Abel, and how the faith God gave him points to Jesus in terms of being a shepherd, the sacrifices he made, and how his spilled blood points to cross. Thank you to Garrett Cook for playing the role of Abel.

OFFERING: ***Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.***

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.) Adapted from Evening Prayer from the Lutheran Service Book

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

C: The Light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening.

C: And the day is almost over

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness.

C: And illuminate Your Church.

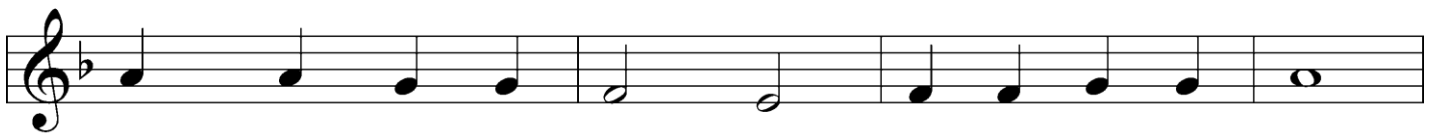
P: Praise to You, O Christ.

C: The King who comes to save us.

P: Let us pray: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on Earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Glory Be to Jesus"LSB 433



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

**5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.**

**6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!**

(Congregation may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Genesis 4:1-16 ESV

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Hebrews 11:1-4 ESV

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

HOMILY: "Abel: Shepherd, Sacrifice, Spilled Blood"

Texts: Genesis 4:1-16 and Hebrews 11:1-4

(If you are able, please stand)

MAGNIFICAT (Song of thanksgiving from Mary)

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior

C: For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

P: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His Name;

C: And His mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

P: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

P: He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich He has sent empty away.

C: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW *(At the end of each prayer petition)*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

(At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Alleluia.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord, rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

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.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"LSB 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord, imitating the Heroes of the Faith.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Thank you to Cindy Zimmerman, Sue Kolander, and Mary Knueppel for tonight's meal.

Please join us next Wednesday for Supper at 6pm and Heroes of the Faith at 7pm.

Next week we look at **Abraham: Faith that grows by learning from mistakes.**

The Pastor's Wife has Something Important to Say: Join Berta Ingham Eddy during the Fellowship Hour, Sunday, December 11, for a short course on spotting pitfalls and dangers when shopping on the Internet, and how to spot a scam on *Facebook*. Great information to have during the shopping season.



Giving Tree: is in the front hallway of the church. The gifts will be going to the Defy Domestic Abuse Center, previously known as the Women's Abuse Shelter of Beloit. We ask that a family only take **one tag** so that many will have an opportunity to participate in the event. After choosing a tag, place your name next to the number on the sign-up sheet that matches the number on the tag. Please spend no more than \$20 on the present. Wrapped gifts with the tag need to be at Messiah, under the Giving Tree, by Friday, Dec. 9 at noon. They will be delivered to the Center the week of Dec 12.

Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with these children.

Early Christmas Shopping Sale: In our entrance hallway choose from hundreds of great gift ideas for Christmas. No prices on any of the items. Simply give a free-will offering and the proceeds will benefit several Mission Grants that LWML is sponsoring for domestic and international projects. A list of specific mission grants will be on the tables so you know what your donation is supporting. Also, donations of items are accepted.



Another Way to Give Offerings to Messiah: Last March, our congregation voted unanimously to explore additional ways to give offerings to Messiah through eTithing. The Parish Planning Council decided to open the **Givelify** app for our members and friends. It is now on-line and ready for use. It is an easy way to give if you don't carry cash or use paper checks. Simply download the app at the *Google Play Store* or *Apple App Store*. It is safe and secure. If you need help setting up the app, please contact Jim Shellenberger at (815) 275-2081 or Carl Creedy at (608) 201-2466. They are planning on having workshops to help people use this exciting new tool.