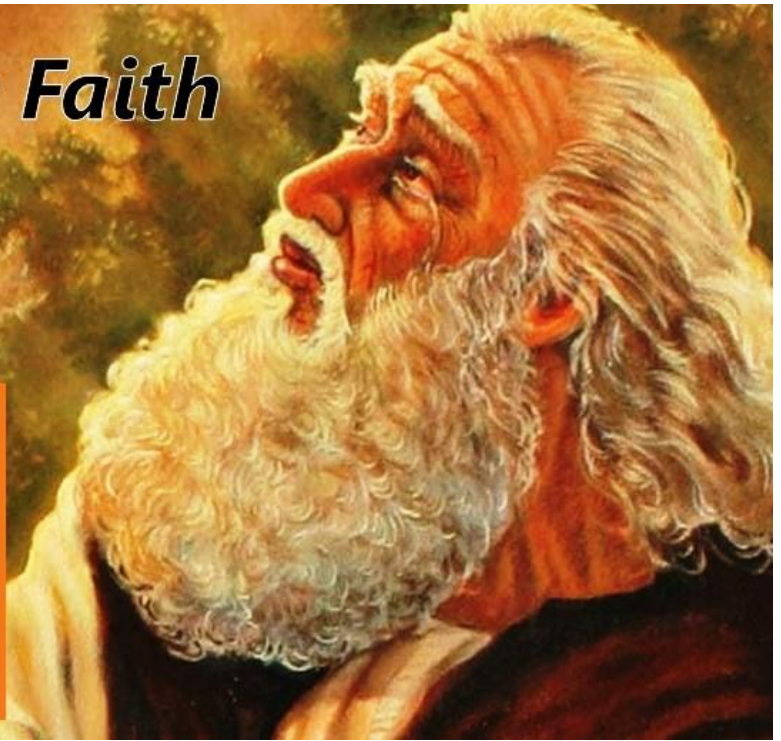


Heroes of the Faith

*Abraham:
Growing in the
Faith, Learning
from Mistakes*



+ Advent 3 - Midweek +
Wednesday, December 14, 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, December 14, 2022

Heroes of the Faith: Abraham

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 advances our faith to remember the past to prepare us for the future. As we wait 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 at the End of Time. We do this to better live our faith today.

This year, our Midweek Advent services are featuring **Heroes of the Faith** as described in Hebrews 11. We have heard from Abel and Noah. CDs of those services are in the Narthex, and available on our website. Tonight, we take a look at Abraham, and how he grew from the faith God gave him. As he knew the Lord better, he acted more like Him, and when he sinned, he learned from his mistakes. What can we glean from his life to apply to ours? Thank you to Mark Peterson for playing the role of Abraham.

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 NIGHT: "Savior of the Nations Come" LSB 332 Verses 3-5

3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild,
In her womb this truth was shown;
God was there upon His throne.

4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began

5. God the Father was His source
Back to God He ran His course,
Into Hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

(Congregation may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Genesis 12:1-20 NIV

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring^[c] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you,

they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

¹⁴ When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. ¹⁵ And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷ But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" ²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-19 NIV

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.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were

longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. (Keep the big picture in mind)]

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

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: “Abraham – Growing in the Faith, Learning from Mistakes”

Texts (See pages 4-6)

CHORAL MEDITATION: Senior Choir

(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..... "Salvation unto Us Has Come" LSB 555 verses 1, 2, 9 and 10

1. Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,

They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

2. What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

9. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

10. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NIV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Thank you Messiah's Food Pantry along with Sharon Dwyer and Tina and Noelle Swanson for tonight's meal. Next week's meal sponsored by LWML.