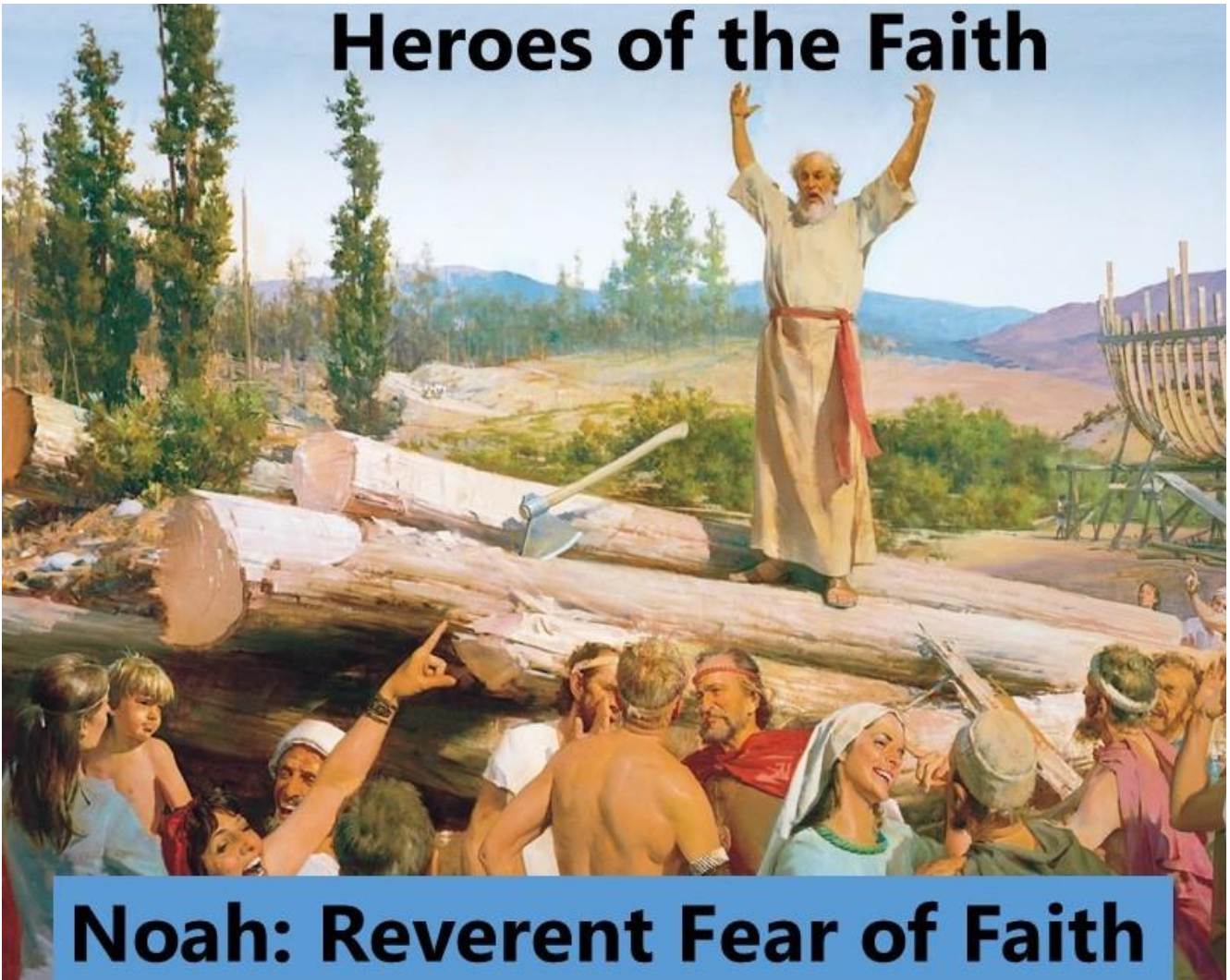


Heroes of the Faith



+ Advent 2 - Midweek +
Wednesday, December 7, 2022



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

Midweek Advent Meditative Worship

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Heroes of the Faith: Noah

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. We do this to better live our faith today.

This year, our Midweek Advent services are featuring four **Heroes of the Faith** as described in Hebrews 11. Last week it was Abel. CDs of that service are in the Narthex. Tonight, we take a look at Noah, and how the faith God gave him shows a reverent fear. But it's what not you may think. He was not afraid of the Lord. He was reverent. What does that look like? What does that have to do with Christ? And how can we live it? Thank you to James Shellenberger for playing the role of Noah.

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: "Savior of the Nations Come"LSB 332

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh --
Woman's offspring pure and fresh.

(Congregation may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Genesis 7-8:1 NIV

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out;

people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴ The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

^{8:1} But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-7 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

SCRIPTURE READING #3: 2 Peter 2:4-5 NIV

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others.

SCRIPTURE READING #4: Matthew 24:37-38 NIV

³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

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.

CHORAL MEDITATION: Senior Choir

HOMILY: “Noah – Man of Reverent Fear” Texts (See pages 4-5)

(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..... "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" BROWN #410

1. My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!
2. May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!
3. While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,

Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4. When ends life's passing dream,
When death's cold, threatening stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

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

BROWN: The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration

Thank you to Mark Peterson, Vickie Dansbury, and Bob Altenberg for tonight's dinner.

Please join us next Wednesday for Supper at 6pm with the Food Pantry and Noelle Swanson hosting. Midweek Advent Heroes of the Faith at 7pm. Next week we look at ***Abraham: Faith that grows by learning from mistakes.***

Congregational Meeting: In accordance with our congregation's bylaws, Pastor Dan is calling a special congregational meeting for next Sunday, December 11 after the 9am service. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall. **(There will be an 11am Worship Service).** The purpose of the meeting is to listen to a proposal to replace our keyboard in the balcony. Sue Kolander will present the specifics. A vote on the proposal will not be taken until the following week's Congregational Meeting.