



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Birth of Isaac

July 23, 2017

10:30 Service of the Word

Abraham and Sarah have waited a long time for a son; a long long time! Long-promised Isaac has finally been born and elderly Abraham and Sarah rejoice. But their rejoicing is short-lived. Jealousy and anger come to center stage and the story turns to fear and bitterness.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Eternal God our creator,

C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(For music see Hymn 588 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
2. **There's a welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands**

of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

3. For the love of God is broader
that the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is more wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4. 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: North American, 19th century

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

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.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Genesis 21

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.” ⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”

¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled

the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

²²At that time Abimelech, with Phicol the commander of his army, said to Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do; ²³now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but as I have dealt loyally with you, you will deal with me and with the land where you have resided as an alien.”²⁴And Abraham said, “I swear it.”²⁵When Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech’s servants had seized,²⁶Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today.”²⁷So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant.²⁸Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs of the flock. ²⁹And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?”³⁰He said, “These seven ewe lambs you shall accept from my hand, in order that you may be a witness for me that I dug this well.”³¹Therefore that place was called Beer-sheba; because there both of them swore an oath. ³²When they had made a covenant at Beer-sheba, Abimelech, with Phicol the commander of his army, left and returned to the land of the Philistines.

³³Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. ³⁴And Abraham resided as an alien many days in the land of the Philistines.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 119:169-176 (*read responsively*)

A: I rejoice before you, Lord,
let your word bring me light.

**C: Hear my prayer,
rescue me as you promised.**

A: May praise be on my lips,
because you taught me your rule.

**C: May praise be on my tongue,
because your commands are just.**

A: Reach out and lead me,
I choose your path.

**C: I long to be safe, Lord,
your law is my delight.**

A: May I live to praise you,

upheld by your word.

**C: If I stray like a lost sheep,
seek out your servant,
for I never forget your laws.**

Second Reading Galatians 4:28-31

²⁸Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. ²⁹But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. ³⁰But what does the scripture say? “Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.” ³¹So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5:14)

C: Alleluia. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-16

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Christ, Be Our Light

(For music turn to Hymn 715 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

**Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

**Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

5. Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; Music: Bernadette Farrell

Apostles' Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set many blessings before us. Open our hands to receive them. Open our hearts to embrace them. Open our lives to live them. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn He's Calling Out Your Name
For music turn to Hymn 48 in the Songbook Binder

**1. He's the Lord of ev'ry season,
He's the master of all time.
And he's come to sow his seeds in...
in this field of humankind.
The eternal Word of heaven
is among us in this place,
and if you have ears to listen
you can hear him call your name.**

Refrain **He's calling out your name,
he's calling out your name.
If you have ears to listen
he's calling out your name.**

**2. He's the Father of all mercy,
and your silent prayer's been heard.
He will satisfy the thirsty
by the water of his Word.
As the bread of life is broken
and Jesus is proclaimed,
may our eyes be opened
to the One who calls our name.**

Refrain

Text and music: Bob Somma, Phil Kristianson, Bill Batstone. Copyright 1996 Maranatha Music and Meadowgreen Music Co. (ASCAP) Meadowgreen Music admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

SO ABRAM GETS
THE CALL AND
JUST GOES.
LIKE THAT.



YEAH,
PRETTY
MUCH.



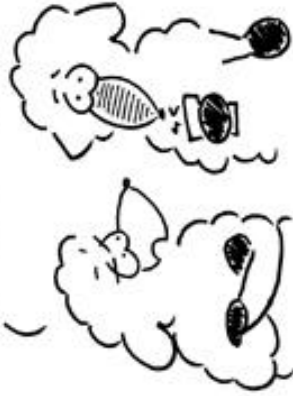
AND EVERYTHING
WORKS OUT
FOR HIM
JUST LIKE
IT'S SUPPOSED
TO.



UHH—
YEAH...
ACTUALLY
UMMM...
IT DOES.



SOME PEOPLE
HAVE IT
SO EASY!



GENESIS 12:1-4

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Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Diane Boncke
Acolyte	Tierney White
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 30

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Acolyte	Kelsey Sackett
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	

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