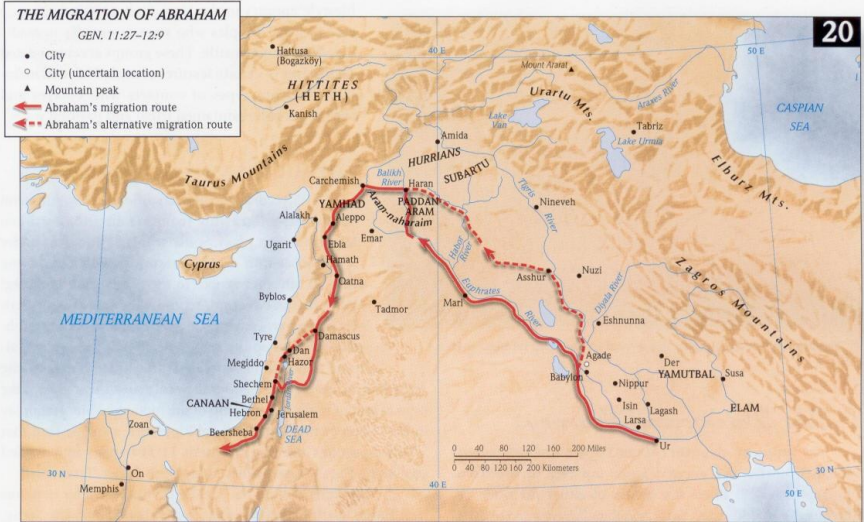




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Call of Abram*

*June 25, 2017 10:30 Service of the Word*

Starting today, and for the next few weeks, we'll learn about the life of Abram (later renamed Abraham). He's the father of many nations and also the world's monotheistic religions. The New Testament speaks of his great faith. We'll look at how that faith grew and also discover some times that it failed. Through it all God held fast to Abraham and guided him through good and bad.

### *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 Just a Closer Walk With Thee  
(For music turn to Hymn 697 in the Red Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Just a closer walk with thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 1. I am weak, by thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain***
- 2. Through this world of toils and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?**

**None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.** *Refrain*

3. **When my feeble life is o'er  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.** *Refrain*

Text and music: North American traditional

*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...

Lord God, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Encourage us by the example of your servant Abram and help us in the course that set before us. At the last bring us to share your eternal joy with all the saints in light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

*First Reading* Genesis 11:31-12:20

<sup>31</sup>Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup>The days of Terah were two hundred five years; and Terah died in Haran.

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

<sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. <sup>11</sup>When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance; <sup>12</sup>and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. <sup>13</sup>Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account.”

<sup>14</sup>When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. <sup>15</sup>When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. <sup>16</sup>And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female slaves, female donkeys, and camels. <sup>17</sup>But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. <sup>18</sup>So Pharaoh called Abram, and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup>Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her, and be gone.” <sup>20</sup>And Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning him; and they set him on the way, with his wife and all that he had.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Isaiah 29:22-14 (*read responsively*)

A: Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

**C: No longer shall Jacob be ashamed,  
no longer shall his face grow pale.**

A: For when he sees his children,  
the work of my hands, in his midst,  
they will sanctify my name;

**C: they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,  
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.**

A: And those who err in spirit will come to understanding,

**C: and those who grumble will accept instruction.**

Second Reading Philippians 1:27-30

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (John 8:31b)

**C: Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;  
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.  
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 8:31-38

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The

slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup>I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. <sup>38</sup>I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."

*After the reading:*

**P:** The gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to you O Christ.

### Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day The God of Abraham Praise (Vs. 1-3, 7, 8)  
(For music see Hymn 831 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The God of Abr'ham praise  
who reigns enthroned above;  
ancient of everlasting days,  
and God of love  
"I am the One I Am"  
by earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name  
forever blest.**
  
2. **The God of Abr'ham praise!  
At your supreme command  
from earth I raise and seek the joys  
at your right hand.  
I all on earth forsake  
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r  
and you my only portion make,  
my shield and tow'r.**
  
3. **The God of Abr'ham praise!  
Your all-sufficient grace  
shall guide me all my pilgrim days  
in all my ways.  
You deign to call me friend;  
you call yourself my God!  
And you will save me to the end  
through Jesus' blood.**

7. **Before the great Three-One  
the saints exulting stand  
and tell the wonders God has done  
through all their land.  
The list'ning spheres attend  
and swell the growing fame  
and sing the songs which never end,  
the wondrous name.**
8. **The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high.  
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”  
then ever cry.  
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine!  
I join the heav’nly lays:  
to you be glory, might divine,  
and endless praise!**

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Music: Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751-1797

*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.**



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 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me  
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;**

**when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**

3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

THIS STORY  
OF ABRAHAM  
& SARAI  
ALWAYS  
AMAZES  
ME.



YEAH—  
THEY JUST  
PICK UP  
& LEAVE  
THEIR  
PAST.



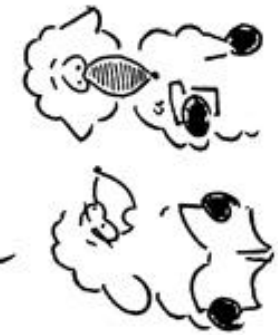
YEAH...



THE PROMISE  
BRINGS ABOUT  
A LIFE OF FAITH,  
A JOURNEY  
WITH GOD.



MAYBE HAZAN  
WAS JUST  
A DUMP.



[www.agustinaf.org](http://www.agustinaf.org)

GENESIS 12:1-9

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**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Linda Flood

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 2**

Greeters and Ushers	Don and Sally Mansfield
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Nursery Care	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Ethan and Alyssa Minkel
Coffee Hour	

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