



“JESUS: THE SON OF ABRAHAM”

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 4:00PM

Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

As we continue to consider Matthew’s genealogical history of Jesus, we focus today on His ancestor Abraham. When He called Abraham, at first it seemed that God was promising only the physical Promised Land. But then the Lord said that Abraham would be the father of many nations, all who would share his faith. And their inheritance is a better land, the heavenly promised land itself. By the grace of God, that gracious promise is ours through our Baptism into Christ, who leads us to that better country. Come quickly, Son of Abraham.

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES (*Genesis 12:3; Romans 4:22, 24; John 8:56*)

P The Lord promised Abram, “I will bless those who bless you,

C **and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

P Paul reminds us that Abraham’s faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

C **“It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus.”**

P Jesus said, “Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day.

C **He saw it and was glad.”**

PSALM (*Psalms 105:1–11, 42–45; antiphon: v. 42*)

P This psalm rejoices that God kept His promise to give Abraham the land—and that He remembers His everlasting covenants.

He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
make known His deeds among the peoples!

C **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!**

P Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

C **Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

C **O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

P He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.

C **He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,**

- P** the covenant that He made with Abraham,
His sworn promise to Isaac,
C **which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**
- P** saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.”
C **For He remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, His servant.**

- P** So He brought His people out with joy,
His chosen ones with singing.
C **And He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples’ toil,**
- P** that they might keep His statutes
and observe His laws.
C **Praise the LORD!**

**He remembered His holy promise,
and Abraham, His servant.**

GREAT O ANTIPHON

- P** This Great O Antiphon looks beyond earthly kingdoms to eternal salvation.
- O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:
C **Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.**

Sit

HYMN (Sung to the tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain.
- 2 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain.
- 3 O Abram’s son, the nations’ King,
To Thee the faithful tribute bring.
Our sins forgiv’n eternally,
A better land in heav’n we see. Refrain.

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1–7

- P** The Lord promises then-Abram that through him all the nations of the world will be blessed. A reading from Genesis, chapter 12.

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:8–16

P People who share the faith of Abraham are only exiles on the earth; we seek a better country. A reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

THIRD READING

John 8:48–59

P Faithful Abraham rejoiced to see the day when his promised son appeared in human history. A reading from John, chapter 8.

⁴⁸The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thank be to God.**

RESPONSORY *(Based on Genesis 12:7; Hebrews 11:8, 16; John 8:58)*

P To your offspring I will give this land.

C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go.

C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P Before Abraham was, I am.

C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P More than only celebrating Abraham's faith, this next hymn raises our sights to the better country God promises us by grace.

Sit

HYMN of the DAY

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LSB 798 sts. 1, 4, 6 & 8

1 The God of Abr'ham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days
And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
Forever blest.

4 He by Himself has sworn;
I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,
To heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face;
I shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace
Forevermore.

6 The goodly land I see,
With peace and plenty blest:
A land of sacred liberty
And endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
And oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow
With mercy crowned.

8 The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry,
"Almighty King!
Who was and is the same
And evermore shall be:

Jehovah, Father, great I AM!

We worship Thee!”

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SERMON

Stand

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECTS

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people’s hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

C hear our prayer.

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world’s ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

C hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR TODAY

P Lord Jesus, You promised Your ancestor Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

C Strengthen the faith we share with him in Your gracious promises. Grant that during our sojourn on this earth we ever look toward the better country You have prepared for us.

P Son of Abraham,

C hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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