

*GENESIS 12:1-4*  
*BLESSED TO BE*  
*A BLESSING*

**St. John Lutheran Church ELCA**  
**Waseca, MN**

Sunday, May 29, 2022

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

**GATHERING**

**Introduction**

As God blessed Abraham and Sarah, in baptism God blesses us in Christ with our adoption as children of God. With Abraham and Sarah, we are blessed to be a blessing to all nations and races of people. In our reading from the book of Acts, we see the variety of nations, ethnicities, and races in the early church. Paul and Barnabas were set apart to spread the gospel good news that God sent Jesus for all. God's blessings are not restricted to one group or race of people. Jesus talks about other sheep that do not belong to his flock, anticipating the church's mission of God's love for all. As baptized children of God, we are sent to proclaim, in word and deed, God's love for all the world.

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Memorial Day Prayer**

(Please stand)

**Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #890 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

*P Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.*

*Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

*(Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.)*

*P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.*

*Send us to bless others with the blessings we have received in you. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

**C Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise (cranberry) #705 God of Grace and God of Glory**

## Prayer of the Day

*P: The Lord be with you!*

**C: And also, with you!**

*P: Let us pray together:*

*P: O God, our leader and guide,*

**C: in the waters of baptism, you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and with the help of your Spirit shine the light of your love to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a; 22:17-18

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. This purpose of God is repeated later toward the end of Abraham and Sarah's life.*

<sup>1</sup>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>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

<sup>17</sup>I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

### Second Reading: Acts 13:1-3, 47-50

*God's plan to spread the gospel good news of his love for all people encounters opposition.*

<sup>1</sup>Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. <sup>2</sup>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup>Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

[Paul and Barnabas spoke saying], <sup>47</sup>For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

<sup>48</sup>When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. <sup>49</sup>Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region. <sup>50</sup>But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region.

*R: Word of God, Word of Life*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

(please stand)

## **Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) #174 Celtic Alleluia**

*Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the nineteenth chapter.*

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

### **Gospel: John 10:11-18**

*Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep and anticipates the early church's mission to spread the blessings of his love to all the world,*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*P: The Gospel of the Lord*

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

(Please be seated)

### **Children's Message**

**Song: (Cranberry) #714 O God of Mercy, God of Light**

**Message: The Gospel and Race—Blessings for ALL Pastor John Omans**

**Message Song (cranberry) #716 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**

### **Prayers of the People**

*P Lord, in your mercy*

**Prayer Response: (cranberry) #178 Hear Our Prayers**

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people,  
hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

### **The Peace**

*P The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C And also with you.**

*P We share Christ's peace with each other (virtual high-five, wave, or virtual hug)*

(please be seated)

## **THANKSGIVING**

**Offering invitation (spoken by Pastor)**

## Stewardship Minute

AS the cost of living increases, the need for food assistance at our food shelves continues to grow. Please pick up a grocery bag (or use your own) and fill it with food, returning it to Trinity Hall on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks be to God for your generosity!

## Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray together our offering prayer:

P: Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**Lord's Prayer (cranberry) pg. 112 (Our Father; who art in heaven)**

## Blessing

*P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**C Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

**SENDING**

**Sending Hymn (cranberry) #726 Light Dawns on a Weary World**

## Sending

*P Go in peace. Share the good news!*

**C Thanks be to God!**

## Leaders in the Service

**Pastor:** John Omans

**Organist:** Jan Macklay

**Acolyte:** Riley Mitchell

**Council Person:** Alex Cooper

**Reader:** Pam Grunzke

**Ushers:** Russell Tesch, Brian Tesch

**Videographer:** Marcia & Dennis Bartz

**Facebook Live:** Curt Yess

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.**

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