



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN



Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Introduction

Why did God test Abraham? Was it for God's benefit or for Abraham's? Why would God demand a child sacrifice in the first place? These are difficult questions that surround our Old Testament reading from Genesis. Perhaps it will help to ask, "What question is this story trying to answer for us?" Whatever questions may remain, Abraham's trust is that "God will provide," (22:8) and that trust is at the center of this story. What does it mean for us that "God will provide?" Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration. The psalm imagines God's provision not in material terms but in relational terms. Whether in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Blessing for Prayer Shawls (by Janet Bristow)

P: May God's grace be upon these shawls – warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives each shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love. Blessed be these prayer shawls!

C: Amen

Dedication of Lutheran World Relief Quilts, Dresses for Haiti and Kits

P: O Lord, our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts – a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts, dresses, and kits that we have made, to you.

C: We dedicate these quilts, dresses for Haiti, and Kits to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items – making each piece we have created an expression of love.

There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life – how you can use something as small as a quilt, a layette, a school kit, personal care items, or a dress made from a pillow case, to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for those who receive them. Amen

(Please stand)

Call to Worship: Psalm 23

P ¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

C ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

P ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

C ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

P ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #731 Earth and All Stars!

Prayer of the Day

P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:

Abundant God, we wait for you with longing, hope, and anticipation. May your kingdom be realized in our lives and in this community. Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation. Plant us deep in the soil of Your love. May your love be our inspiration and your beacon to direct us home. Grant us grace to trust your promised presence meeting us here, now, and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart for whatever Your love demands. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Shepherd through life.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

In the troubling tale of the near sacrifice of Isaac, the life of the promised heir is threatened, and the faith of Abraham is tested.

¹God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."¹²[The angel] said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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 tenth chapter

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn (cranberry) #789 **Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Message: **This is a test** Pastor John Omans

Message Song (cranberry) #763 **My Life Flows on in Endless Song**

THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM

Barrett Elmer Sleen

Parents: *Matt Sleen & Jackie Wolff*

Sponsors: *Miranda Wolff, Serfin Torres*

P *Let us pray: Spirit of the living God, fall fresh upon us as we stand before this water of life. As we baptize this child today, remind us of our own baptisms and help us to rededicate our lives to you each and every day, in Jesus' name.*

C **Amen.**

P *In the water of baptism, we die with Christ. We are crucified and buried in order that we might be raised with Christ, to live the new life, to dwell in a new reality, a new order of existence.*

Because of Baptism, we are Christians. Never again does our status before God depend on...how we feel...or having the right experience...or being free of doubt.

It doesn't depend on...what we accomplish; or on our success or position. We are Christians because God surprised us. Coming in water, God washes us and grafts us into Christ. Our identity for all the days of our life is set! We are children of God ... disciples of Christ ... a servant people ... the communion of saints ... proclaimers of God's wonderful deeds.

In these waters Jesus' story becomes our story. Baptized into his death, we are raised to live as the Body of Christ in the world today.

Now we know that baptism becomes the overpowering event in our lives, the event which tells us who we are and how we are to live.

The Presentation

P Who presents Barrett to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Parent and sponsors answer: "We Do."

P In Christian love you have presented Barrett for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide him instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

If so, please answer, "I do."

Parent and Sponsors: I do.

To All Those Gathered:

P Do you also pledge your support to this child? Will you offer your love, your resources, and your faith so that she may grow and learn in the community of the church? If so, please answer, "I do."

Congregation: I do.

P In the words of the Apostles' Creed, let us confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who calls us to the waters of baptism.

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 into hell. 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.

The Baptism

P Barrett, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer

P Let us pray: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Barrett, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen.

P Barrett, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

The Baptism Candle is Given

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven.

Welcome

R We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Welcome Song

Little Child, Welcome

Debra Yess

(Please Stand)

Prayers of the People

P Lord, in your mercy

C Hear Our Prayer

Prayer Response: #751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: com and listen to me.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's Peace)

Offering Invitation (spoken by Pastor)

Stewardship Minute

Thank you for the offering of your time and talent and treasure to the ministries we do together as a church – our ministries of welcome and worship, our ministries of generosity through our Lutheran World Relief kits (**126** school kits assembled last Sunday) and to many other needs, our ministries of fellowship and Christian education. Luke 12:34 informs us, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Let our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents. May our generosity meet God’s abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community and world.

THANKSGIVING

(Please be seated)

Offering invitation (spoken by Pastor)

Noisy offering (children will be collecting change in their cups)

(Offering may be placed in offering plates near exits)

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

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

SENDING

Blessing

P May Almighty God, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C Amen.

(Please stand)

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #856 How Great Thou Art

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Acolyte: Jack Kuhns

Council Person: Kyle Gallagher

Reader: Marcia Bartz

Ushers: Val Possehl, Sam Macklay

Videographer: Pam Grunzke

Facebook Live: Curt Yess