

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
God's Promise to Abraham  
March 15 & 16, 2014

**AS WE GATHER**

The chorus of a popular children's song reads, "Father Abraham had many sons, and many sons had father Abraham. I am one of them, and so are you, so let's just praise the Lord!" It's true; we are children of Abraham because of another child of Abraham—Jesus Christ—who came into the world as Abraham's seed. With the coming of Jesus, God kept His promise to Abraham found in today's reading from Genesis 12:3, "I 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." We thank the Lord for this Gospel promise that was fulfilled in Jesus, our Savior. The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all-sufficient grace Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways. He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God. And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood. *LSB 798:3*

**+ PREPARATION +**

**PRESERVICE SOLO**

*"How Great Thou Art"*  
*Congregation joins in singing the refrain*

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

**WELCOME**

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10*

**FELLOWSHIP GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN #798 "The God of Abraham Praise"**      *Stanzas 1-4, 8-9*  
*Rise for last stanza*

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.

The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.  
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame and pow'r,  
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.  
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

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.

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!"

The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:  
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**People: From where does my help come?**

Pastor: My help comes from the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: He will not let your foot be moved;

**People: He who keeps you will not slumber.**

**LENTEN LITANY**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **O Lord our God, we have failed to live as your baptized children, citizens of your kingdom. We have not lived lives worthy of your name—the name in which we are baptized. We have lived as though we are citizens of this sinful world, sinning against you in thought, word, and deed. Grant to us, your sons and daughters, repentance and forgiveness. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you see that by ourselves we have no strength. By your mighty power, defend us from all adversities that attack the body and from all evil thoughts that assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 12:1–9*

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram, was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the

land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

## EPISTLE *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

SOLO

*“Here I Am, Lord”*

(Rise)

## HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17*

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.

So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN #605 “Father Welcomes”

**Refrain:** Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;

Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

#### SERMON “Under That Tree”

Genesis 12:1-9

(Rise)

**APOSTLES’ CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for all God’s people, the Body of Christ, and all people in need of prayer.

*After each petition:*

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

#### THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

#### WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

#### HYMN #423 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

**HYMN****“There Is a Redeemer”**

W &amp; R #117

There is a Redeemer Jesus, God’s own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Refrain: Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. *Refrain*

When I stand in Glory, I will see his face;  
there I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place. *Refrain*

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**HYMN #430****“My Song Is Love Unknown”**

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and non The longed for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And ‘gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life They slay.  
Yet cheerful He To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.****BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord will keep you from all evil;

**People: He will keep your life.**

Pastor: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

**People: from this time forth and forevermore.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.****CLOSING HYMN #418 “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”**

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God’s eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves. Since we have known God’s love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven’s praise.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Soloist

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Grant Gundersen, Pam Akey, Bob Reynolds

Keera Panagis, Emily Reinhardt, Abbey Hoffmann

Pastor Emeritus Thomas Hinz

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller