

Sunday, September 20, 2020

God's Promise to Abraham



*“Church is not a place; it is who we are.
Once we realize this, we can be the church anywhere.”*

TUNE YOUR RADIO TO: 88.1 FM

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Days of Elijah”

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord.
And these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword.
Still we are the voice in the dessert, crying, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”

CHORUS

Behold he comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet call. Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord. **CHORUS x 2**

Who was and who is and who is to come. Who was and who is and who is to come. Who was and who is and who is to come. Who was and who is and who is to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Rock of My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham”

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham?

Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham.

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham? Ohhh, rock my soul.

I would not be a sinner. I'm telling you the reason why.

I'm afraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham?

Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham.

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham? Ohhh, rock my soul.

I would not be a liar. I'm telling you the reason why.

I'm afraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham?

Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham.

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham? Ohhh, rock my soul.

I would not be a back biter. I'm telling you the reason why.

I'm afraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham?

Rock my soul in the bosom of Abraham.

Why don't you rock my soul, in the bosom of Abraham? Ohhh, rock my soul.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

PRAYER of the DAY

God of the covenant,

As you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, brothers and sisters all.
2. Every rung goes higher and higher. Every rung goes higher and higher.
Every rung goes higher and higher, brothers and sisters all.
3. Every new rung just makes us stronger. Every new rung just makes us stronger.
Every new rung just makes us stronger, brothers and sisters all.
4. We are climbing Jacob's ladder. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, brothers and sisters all.
5. We are climbing higher and higher. We are climbing higher and higher.
We are climbing higher and higher, brothers and sisters all.

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Luke 3:8

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”

CHORUS

**Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came a-tumbling down**

I know you’ve heard of Joshua
He was the son of Nun
He never stopped his work for God,
Until that work was done. **(CHORUS)**

You may talk about your men of Gideon
You may talk about the men of Saul
But there's none like good old Joshua
At the battle of Jericho **(CHORUS)**

Up to the walls of Jericho
He marched with spear in hand
“Go blow them ram horns," Joshua cry
"Cause the battle is in my hands" **(CHORUS)**

Then the lamb ram sheep horns began to blow
And the trumpets began to sound
The people shouted “Glory to God”
And the walls came a tumbling down **(CHORUS)**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to

set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER - LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Pastor James will deliver the communion to your car. Please wait until everyone has been served, and Pastor gives the signal to share the sacrament together.

When you depart from today's service there will be a drop off location for your offering and a trash receptacle for the communion cups and bulletins.

COMMUNION HYMN "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel"

CHORUS

Ezekiel saw that wheel.... Way up in the middle of the air.

Ezekiel saw that wheel whirling...Way up in the middle of the air.

The big wheel runs by faith...The little wheel runs by the grace of God.

A wheel in a wheel...Way in the middle of the air.

Some got to church to sing and shout...Way in the middle of the air.

Before six months they're shouted out...Way in the middle of the air (½**CHORUS**)

Tell you what a hypocrite'll do...Way up in the middle of the air.

He'll talk about me and he'll talk about you...Way up in the middle of the air (½**CHORUS**)

Don't pray for things that you don't need...Way in the middle of the air.

The Lord don't like no sin and greed... Way in the middle of the air (½**CHORUS**)

There's one thing sure that you can't do...Way in the middle of the air.

You can't serve God and Satan too... Way in the middle of the air (½**CHORUS**)

One of these days about twelve o'clock...Way in the middle of the air.

This old world's gonna reel and rock...Way in the middle of the air (**CHORUS**)

PRAYER after COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,

that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

HYMN- “Swing Low Sweet Chariot”

CHORUS

Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin’ for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin’ for to carry he home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see? Comin’ for to carry he home.

A band of angels coming after me, Comin’ for to carry me home. (**CHORUS**)

If you get there before I do, Comin’ for to carry me home.

Just tell my friends I'm comin’ too, Comin’ for to carry me home. (**CHORUS**)

I’m sometimes up and sometimes down, Comin’ for to carry me home.

But still my soul feels heavenly bound. Comin’ for to carry me home. (**CHORUS 2x**)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God’s Word Last Week

September 13th, 2020 – Virtual Attendance *: 96

**Virtual attendance is based on a matrix from the NEMN Synod. We determine the number of unique views per week and multiply by 2 – assuming there are two people per household watching the youtube video service.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST Jerry Morris, on his recent surgery, Keith Munding on his upcoming surgery, & Kathy & Manyard Berland on the loss of their daughter. Funeral services for Kimberli Berland, age 60, of Milaca, will be held Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 11 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca with Pastor Tim Bauer officiating. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday. More information can be found on the website of Peterson/Johnson Funeral home of Milaca. <https://www.pjfuneralhome.com/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS will be starting up again on Monday, October 5th & 12th at 9:00am in the Church Fellowship Hall with restrictions: Facemasks required, Social Distancing, Bring your own Beverage (coffee will not be served), and read and follow the Health Screening Check List at the front door.

CANCELLED ACTIVITIES

• **October Bazaar** – check out our Facebook page, Website and October Newsletter for our other ideas for fund-raising to fund WELCA's many worthy missions.

LUTEFISK DINNER Holden Lutheran Church has cancelled their Lutefisk Dinner held in October but instead you can Pre-order a "To Go Boxed Lutefisk Dinner for Two". Cost \$28. Pre-order by Thursday, October 1, 2020 by calling 320 676-3497 or 320-676-3706. Leave a message with Name, Phone Number and How many. Meals to be picked up on Saturday, October 25, 2020 between 11am and 1pm at Holden Lutheran Church. 2987 150th Street, Isle, MN 56342. Meal consists of 1 ½ lbs. Lutefisk, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cream Sauce, Butter, Lefse and instructions for Preparation. Additional Lefse will be available at \$6/pkg.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED If you would like to help in the mowing, please



contact Mary at the church office (320-684-2123) to get on the signup sheet. We can use your help. If you have any questions call Lee Forrester at 651-271-2186.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH
we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS
we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*