

Prelude

Adagio

Patrick

+ Call to Worship
(Liz Buckingham)

from LECTERN

God made a promise to Abraham: that he would be the father of many nations and have many descendants

Abraham embraced God's call for his life, believed the promise, and took courageous action.

We have a promise, too: God's everlasting presence and love, in all things, good and bad.

May we have the faith of Abraham; may we, too, embrace our call, believe God's promise, and act with courage.

+Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham
Praise
UMH#116***

Tune: LEONI

**The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**

The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forever more.

The heavenly 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.

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, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

+Welcome (Laura)

from Center

Trio:

Lift Thine Eyes

Choir

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
Whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord,
The Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy Keeper will never slumber, never slumber.

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
Whence cometh help.

Litany of Forgiveness (Judy)

from **Lectern**

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives

and asked them to dream the impossible dream—
that you would transform what appears to have been
a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and
hope— and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

**Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call
on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome
interruption.**

Faithful God,

the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in
your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced
of your ability to fulfill what had been promised.

**Forgive us, O God,
when we find it hard even to hear your promises
above commercial assurances of transformation—
promises tempting us to trust the newest
and trendiest product to realize our dreams.**

Merciful God,

Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Help us when we hesitate,

and strengthen us when we are weak

Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us.

(Silent Prayer)

+Words of Assurance (Judy)

Hear and believe these words about God's amazing grace, grace experienced through Jesus' sacrificial love, as forgiveness of sins.

Amen

Thanks be to God!

+Sharing the Peace of Christ
(Judy)

from center

Children come forward so you can participate in the baptism. Children will leave with Keesha after the baptism for Hennepin Kids for Life Sunday School. As God's forgiven people, let's share the peace of Christ with one another:

The peace of Christ be with you;

And also with you!

HYMN #611

*Child of Blessing,
Child of Promise*

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.**

Sacrament of Baptism
(Judy & Laura)

at communion table

(Judy) We are here to celebrate baptism as we make covenant with God and one another, while we remember our own baptisms and renew our commitment to Christ who has raised us, the Creator who has birthed us from the beginning, and the Spirit who is making all things new.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, God's Spirit welcomes us into Christ's holy Church, puts us on the stage of God's saving drama, and gives us new birth through water and the Spirit.

(Kristine Northrop) I present Callie Warren Kostroski for baptism.

To the family:

(Judy) And so, I ask you Peter and Natalie, will you do everything in your power to live a life of goodness and turn away from what is harmful in the world?

We will.

(Laura) Will you give yourself to living a life that seeks to overcome injustice and oppression and help to nurture those desires in Callie as she grows?

We will.

(Judy) Will you help Callie to know the stories of the scriptures and other sacred texts so she will learn the wisdom of people of faith, helping her to follow in the Way of Jesus by living a life of love and compassion for all?

We will.

(Laura) Will you help Callie find a home at Hennepin so she can be taught, led and loved by those who will be her spiritual mentors?

We will.

To the children:

(Judy) Children, will you be a friend to Callie, helping her feel safe and included as we worship, pray, play, and serve together?

We will.

To the congregation:

(Laura) Will all of you nurture and care for Callie as she grows in her spiritual journey? Will you surround and support her with your prayers? Will you commit to practice your faith so your example will help Callie love God and live Love's service in the world?

We will.

(Judy) The Spirit of the Lord is with us as we ask God to bless this water.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Come upon these waters. Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy. Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus. Let these waters make us long for your coming reign. All glory is yours, eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

Callie Warren Kostroski, we baptize you in the name of God who is Mother and Father of us all, in the name of Jesus who is God's Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now, may the Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Callie is a baptized child of God.

To the congregation:

Members of the household of God, I commend Callie to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

Congregation:

With God's help we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Callie with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to eternal life.

*Children may leave to go to the chapel for Hennepin Kids for Life Sunday School

Our Song Continues

Child of Blessing
verse 3

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.**

Scripture (Liz Buckingham)

from LECTERN

Our Scripture reading this morning comes from Romans. I will be reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was

said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon (Laura)
Celebrate! Promise

from Pulpit

Invitation to Give (Judy)

from Lectern

Offertory

O Divine Redeemer

Ah, turn me not away, receive me though unworthy.
Hear Thou my cry. Behold, Lord, my distress!
Answer me from Thy throne,
Haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid!
Thy pity show in my deep anguish.
Let not the sword of vengeance smite me,
Though righteous Thine anger, O Lord!

Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On Thee, Lord, alone will I call!

O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon
And remember not, remember not, O Lord, my sins!

Night gathers round my soul. Fearful, I cry to Thee,
Come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!

Hear my cry, Save me, Lord in Thy mercy;
Hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord!

Save in the day of retribution
From death shield Thou me, O my God!
O divine Redeemer, have mercy!
Help me Savior!

+Doxology

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+Prayer of Dedication (Judy)

Prayers for Our Community
(Judy)

Our prayer today is responsive. When I say “Lord, hear our prayer”, the congregation will respond: “and in your love, answer.”

O Lord, we give you thanks for the example of Abraham and for all the saints who have gone before us - for those who waited in patience for your promises to come to pass - for those who lived in hope while around them it seemed to be only darkness, for those who witnessed to you when it was not considered the proper thing to do, for those who forgot their own selves in their desire to obey your commands and respond to your call upon their lives. Help us today, O God, to examine the level of our faith - to look seriously at our resistance to talk about the cross and about sacrifice; and to consider in prayer our

reluctance to give up the things of this world - to risk our reputations, our comfort, and our security for the sake of following you - for the sake of witnessing to you - for the sake of obeying you

Lord, hear our prayer, **and in your love, answer.**

We pray, O Lord, that you would make us bold in our faith. By our self-forgetting, our self-denial, help us make visible to all the reality of your power and care - that power and care that is so often made evident when we confess our weakness - and so often concealed from others when we are strong.....

Lord, hear our prayer, **and in your love, answer.**

We pray, O Lord, for those people whose names, or faces, or needs are resting upon our hearts – for the members of our church whose health is failing as they age – for those believers whose families are struggling to deal with complex relationships and confusion and uncertainty – for those who have little or no faith and who seem to be lost even though your light shines around them and your word is close to hand....

Lord, hear our prayer, **and in your love, answer.**

We pray, O Lord, for those in our family, our church, our community and our world that you bring to our hearts and minds at this time – and we hold them up to you in silent prayer now. (pause for silent prayer)

All these things we we pray to, through your Son Jesus, who died that we might live, and who lives that we might never die, and who taught us to pray saying...

Our God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Announcements (Laura)

from center

+Hymn **374

*Standing on the
Promises of God*

Tune: PROMISES

**Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.**

REFRAIN

**Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior,
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. (REFRAIN)**

**Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's word,
standing on the promises of God. (REFRAIN)**

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. (REFRAIN)**

+Benediction & Sending
(Laura)

Center

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune