

St. Luke's Lutheran Church



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Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 7:30 PM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
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Rev. King Crawford, Campus Ministry
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music
Betsy Molinary, Director of Early Learning Center
Tracie Hudson, Assistant Director of Early Learning Center*

**Advent Midweek 2
Jesus: The Son of Abraham
(Series B)**

AS WE GATHER

As we continue to consider Matthew's genealogical history of Jesus, we focus today on His ancestor Abraham. When He called Abraham, at first it seemed that God was promising only the physical Promised Land. But then the Lord said that Abraham would be the father of many nations, all who would share his faith. And their inheritance is a better land, the heavenly promised land itself. By the grace of God, that gracious promise is ours through our Baptism into Christ, who leads us to that better country. Come quickly, Son of Abraham.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham, . . . the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. *Matthew 1:1, 16*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

LIGHTING OF CANDLES (*INCLUDING THE ADVENT WREATH*)

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

Genesis 12:3; Romans 4:22, 24; John 8:56

- P** The Lord promised Abram, “I will bless those who bless you,
C **and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**
- P** Paul reminds us that Abraham’s faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”
C **“It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus.”**
- P** Jesus said, “Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day.
C **He saw it and was glad.”**

✠PSALMODY✠

PSALM

Psalm 105:1-11, 42-45; antiphon: v. 42

- P** This psalm rejoices that God kept His promise to give Abraham the land—and that He remembers His everlasting covenants.

He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
make known His deeds among the peoples!

- C** **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!**

- P** Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

- C** **Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

C **O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

P He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.

C **He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,**

P the covenant that He made with Abraham,
His sworn promise to Isaac,

C **which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**

P saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

C **For He remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, His servant.**

P So He brought His people out with joy,
His chosen ones with singing.

C **And He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,**

P that they might keep His statutes
and observe His laws.

C **Praise the LORD!**

**He remembered His holy promise,
and Abraham, His servant.**

THE GREAT O ANTIPHON

P This Great O Antiphon looks beyond earthly kingdoms to eternal salvation.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

C Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Advent 2)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
2 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In
3 O A - bram's son, the na - tions' King, To



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
one the hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
Thee the faith - ful trib - ute bring. Our sins for - giv'n e -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.
ter - nal - ly, A bet - ter land in heav'n we see.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

✠READINGS✠

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-7

L The Lord promises then-Abram that through him all the nations of the world will be blessed. A reading from Genesis, chapter 12.

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³I 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.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:8-16

L People who share the faith of Abraham are only exiles on the earth; we seek a better country. A reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

THIRD READING

John 8:48-59

L Faithful Abraham rejoiced to see the day when his promised son appeared in human history. A reading from John, chapter 8.

⁴⁸The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

Based on Genesis 12:7; Hebrews 11:8, 16; John 8:58

P To your offspring I will give this land.

C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go.

C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P Before Abraham was, I am.

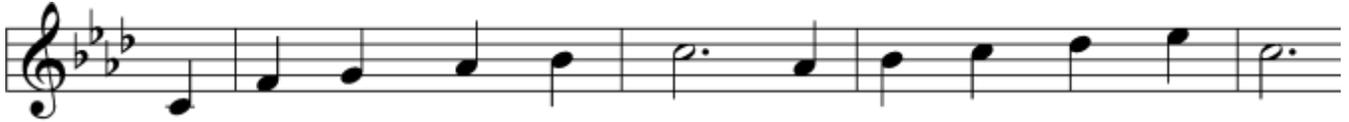
C **We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.**

P More than only celebrating Abraham's faith, this next hymn raises our sights to the better country God promises us by grace.

Sit

798 THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

sts. 1, 4, 6, 8



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, Who reigns en-throned a-bove;
4 He by Him-self has sworn; I on His oath de-pend.
6 The good-ly land I see, With peace and plen-ty blest:
8 The God who reigns on high The great arch-an-gels sing,



An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days And God of love.
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, To heav'n as-cend.
A land of sa-cred lib-er-ty And end-less rest.
And "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly!" cry, "Al-might-y King!



Je-ho-vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;
I shall be-hold His face; I shall His pow'r a-dore
There milk and hon-ey flow, And oil and wine a-bound,
Who was and is the same And ev-er-more shall be:



I bow and bless the sa-cred name For-ev-er-blest.
And sing the won-ders of His grace For-ev-er-more.
And trees of life for-ev-er grow With mer-cy crowned.
Je-ho-vah, Fa-ther, great I AM! We wor-ship Thee!"

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SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

Stand

936 SING PRAISE TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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✠PRAYER✠

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

COLLECTS

- P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

C **hear our prayer.**

COLLECT FOR TODAY

P Lord Jesus, You promised Your ancestor Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

C **Strengthen the faith we share with him in Your gracious promises. Grant that during our sojourn on this earth we ever look toward the better country You have prepared for us.**

P Son of Abraham,

C **hear our prayer.**

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C **that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

P We pray together,

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

374 GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Matthew 1:1–16

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

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