

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

Theme: God's Promise to Abraham—Abram doubted that God would fulfill God's promise of descendants. But God reaffirmed God's promise, stating Abram's descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Often God's promises are grand, and they are fulfilled in surprising ways.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord God is our God.

And so, we are not afraid.

The Lord is our shield,

Protecting and watching over us.

When we put our trust in God,

Great is our reward.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG

Open the Eyes of My Heart

CHORUS: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see You, I want to see You.

VERSE: To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your pow'r and love; As we sing holy, holy, holy. (repeat all)

BRIDGE: Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy. Holy, Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Almighty God, You long for us to trust that you hold our lives safely in your hands. Reveal the surprises you have for us in your good time, and show us that your mercy never fails us, in Jesus' name. Amen**

FIRST READING:

Genesis 15:1-6

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL:

Luke 3:7-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

#831

The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;

Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love-

"I Am the One I Am"-- by earth and heav'n confessed;

I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

**The God of Abr'ham praise! At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake--its wisdom, fame, and pow'r—
and you my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.**

**The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus' blood.**

**Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore, and sing the wonders of your grace forevermore.**

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 THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer**

Our prayers—and our lives—are safe within your hands. We trust in your faithfulness and give thanks that you have heard us, for the sake of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

We Are an Offering

#692

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
we are an offering.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. God is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE