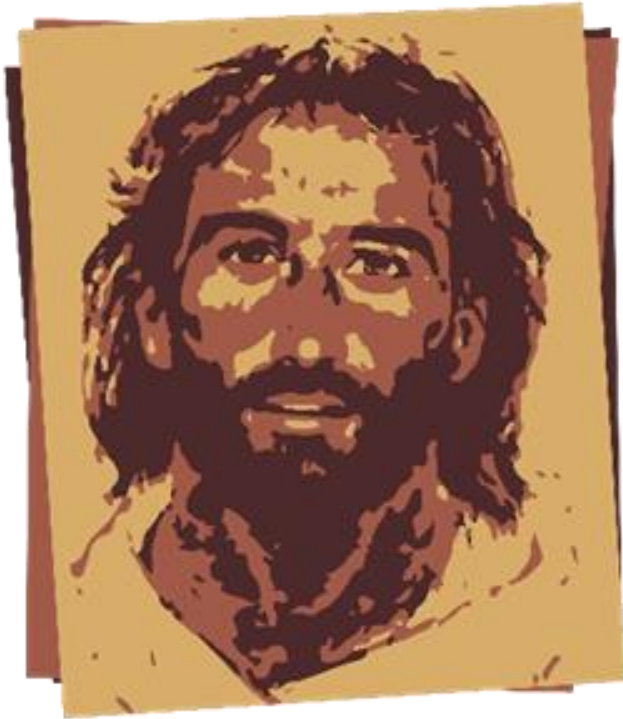


ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

December 9, 2020



Jesus: The Son of Abraham

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dawson Creek BC

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.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The Lord promised Abram, “I will bless those who bless you,

People: and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Pastor: Paul reminds us that Abraham’s faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

People: “It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus.”

Pastor: Jesus said, “Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day.

People: He saw it and was glad.”

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM *Psalm 105:1–11, 42–45; antiphon: v. 42*

Pastor: 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!

People: **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!**

Pastor: Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

People: **Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor: that they might keep His statutes
and observe His laws.

People: **Praise the LORD!**

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

HYMN #357 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God
appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all
mankind;

Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King
of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Abram’s son, the nations’ King, To Thee the faithful tribute
bring.

Our sins forgiv’n eternally, A better land in heav’n we see.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Sts. 1–2: Latin, ca. 12th cent.; *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; st. 3: James Pierce. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

✘ READINGS ✘

FIRST READING *Genesis 12:1–7*

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

(The lesson is read.)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING*Hebrews 11:8–16*

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

(The lesson is read.)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING*John 8:48–59*

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

(The lesson is read.)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thank be to God.

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

Pastor: To your offspring I will give this land.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Pastor: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Pastor: Before Abraham was, I am.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

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

SERMON

Hymn # 348 –The king Shall Come When Morning Dawns VS 1-4

✠ PRAYER ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

COLLECTS

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

COLLECT FOR TODAY

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: Son of Abraham,
People: **hear our prayer.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

People: **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. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,
and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
People: Amen.

HYMN # 379 – O Come, All Ye Faithful