

FIRST READING. Genesis 15:1-6

After 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.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But 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.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

SECOND READING. Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL. Luke 12:32-40

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’



Look Up

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear. From *Sundays & Seasons*, copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

COVID-19

Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Confession and Forgiveness
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

Psalm 33:12-22 - Tune 883 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (Old Hundredth)

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with harps; make melody to him with stringed instruments. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, and shout for joy.

**God is our helper and our shield.
Let gladsome songs his praises yield.**

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**The heights of heav'n, the depths of sea--
By God's strong word they came to be.**

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

**God is our helper and our shield.
Let gladsome songs his praises yield.**

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth; he forms all their thoughts and sees all their deeds.

The armies of the world must fall
Before the Lord, who rules them all.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

**God is our helper and our shield.
Let gladsome songs his praises yield.**

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**Lord, bless us with your mercy true.
Behold, we place our hope in you!**

Dates to Remember

TODAY	6:30 p.m. - Worship on the Lawn, a casual worship service with singing, holy communion and simple order of service led by Pastor Bart.
August 21	6:30 p.m. - Worship on the Lawn, a vespers style service led by Dianne Yungblut. The format will be similar to our Worship on the Lawn services in 2021. <u>There will be no Sunday morning worship service August 21.</u>

Please bring a lawn chair. We hope you can join us for a relaxing time, worshipping on the lawn at St. Matthew’s!



All types of food donations are welcome at Open Arms Mission.
Donation focus for August: Crackers

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting 10 - Page 203
Prelude and Announcements

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GATHERING
Confession and ForgivenessPrinted
Gathering Song771 God, Who Stretched
the Spangled Heavens
GreetingPage 203
Prayer of the Day

WORD
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Psalm 33:12-22Printed in bulletin
Second Reading ...Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Gospel AcclamationPage 205
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelLuke 12:32-40
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day638 Blessed Assurance
Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response **“receive our prayer.”**
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL
Offertory Prayer
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 206
Holy, Holy, HolyPage 207
Eucharistic Prayer
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Communion
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Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING
Blessing
Sending Song ...856 How Great Thou Art

Dismissal:
Go in peace. Love your neighbour.
Response: Thanks be to God.