



Luther Memorial Church & School

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As We Gather

Who is the son of Abraham? Like Adam and Eve before them, Abram and Sarai also received a promise from the Lord concerning their descendants. God pledged that Abram's offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. But as this childless couple grew older, their patience with God's promise grew thinner. Having decided to take matters into their own hands, Abram has a son by Hagar, a servant who was not his wife. Yet, in His grace and mercy, God still fulfills the promise of another son, Isaac, born to impatient Abram and Sarai. Through him, in God's perfect timing, the Lord would finally send the true Son of Abraham, Jesus Christ, into the world.

[Today's hymns are printed on pages 8-11 of the bulletin.]

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

TLH 56 – Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 146:3-5

- P** Put not your trust in princes,
C in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
P When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
C on that very day his plans perish.
P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
C we have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.
- P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. Let us rest in His peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve Him in newness of life.
- C** Amen.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who in spite of the impatience of Abram and Sarai still graciously kept Your promise to them of a son and countless descendants. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:21-5:1

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴ Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." ³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10

- P** To you, O LORD,
C **I lift up my soul.**
P O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
C **let not my enemies exult over me.**
P Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
C **they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**
P Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
C **teach me your paths.**
P Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
C **for you I wait all the day long.**
P Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
C **for they have been from of old.**
P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
C **according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**
P Good and upright is the LORD;
C **therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
P He leads the humble in what is right,
C **and teaches the humble his way.**
P All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
C **for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-9

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ” ⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is

able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Readings Response

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Confession of Faith

Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn

TLH 645 – Behold, a Branch is Growing



Sermon Text

Genesis 16:1-6

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.



This is My Son: Ishmael

Offertory

TLH 50 st. 2

Thanks we give and ad-o-ra-tion For Thy Gos-pel's
joy-ful sound. May the fruits of Thy sal-va-tion
In our hearts and lives a-bound; Ev-er faith-ful,
Ev-er faith-ful To the Truth may we be found!

Hymn

WS 705 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

TLH 420 (1, 4-5) – My Jesus, as Thou Wilt

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TLH 56 – Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

Zech. 9 : 9
Godfrey Thring, 1864

Sieh, hier bin ich
"Geistreiches Gesangbuch"
Darmstadt, 1698



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a-dor - ing, Came with peace from realms on high;
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are bowed with care;
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of sins for - giv' n;



Je - sus came for man's re - demp - tion, Low - ly came on earth to die;
Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer;
Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness, Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav' n.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Now the gate of death is riv' n. A - men.



4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Glads our hearts, and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cheering e'en our failing years.

5 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
When the heavens shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory.
Let us, then, our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.

TLH 645 – Behold, a Branch is Growing

Is. 11: 1, 2

7. 6. 7. 6. 6. 7. 6.

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
 German author unknown, c. 1500
 Tr., st. 1-4, Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875
 Tr., st. 5, John C. Mattes, 1914

Es ist ein' Ros'
 "Alte geistliche Kirchengesäng"
 Cologne, 1599

1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of love - liest form and grace,
 2 I - sa - iah hath fore - told It In words of prom - ise sure,
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, Pro - claimed by an - gels bright,

As proph - ets sung, fore - know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race
 And Ma - ry's arms en - fold It, A vir - gin meek and pure.
 How Christ, the Lord of Glo - ry, Was born on earth this night.

And bears one lit - tle Flow'r In midst of cold - est
 Thro' God's e - ter - nal will This Child to her is
 To Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger

win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 found Him, As an - gel her - alds said. A - men.

4 This Flower whose fragrance tender
 With sweetness fills the air,
 Dispels with glorious splendor
 The darkness everywhere.
 True Man, yet very God;
 From sin and death He saves us
 And lightens every load.

5 O Savior, Child of Mary,
 Who felt our human woe;
 O Savior, King of Glory,
 Who dost our weakness know,
 Bring us at length, we pray,
 To the bright courts of heaven
 And to the endless day.

WS 705 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Your
 2 Born Your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and
 3 By Your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our



peo - ple free; From our sins and fears re - lease us
 yet a king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
 hearts a - lone; By Your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it



By Your death on Cal - va - ry.
 Now Your gra - cious king - dom bring.
 Raise us to Your glo - rious throne.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
 Tune and Setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901

CROSS OF JESUS
 87 87

TLH 420 (1, 4-5) – My Jesus, as Thou Wilt

Mark 14: 36

6. 6. 6. 6. D.

Mein Jesu, wie du wilt

Benjamin Schmolck, 1704, cento

Tr., Jane Borthwick, 1854

Denby

Charles J. Dale, 1904

1 My Je - sus, as Thou wilt; Oh, may Thy will be mine!
 2 My Je - sus, as Thou wilt. If need - y here and poor,
 3 My Je - sus, as Thou wilt. Tho' seen thro' man - y a tear,

In - to Thy hand of love I would my all re - sign.
 Give me Thy peo - ple's bread, Thy Word, so rich and sure.
 Let not my star of hope Grow dim or dis - ap - pear.

Thro' sor - row or thro' joy Con - duct me as Thine own
 This man - na from a - bove Let my soul feed up - on;
 Since Thou on earth hast wept And sor - rowed oft a - lone,

And help me still to say, My Lord, Thy will be done.
 And if all else should fail, My Lord, Thy will be done.
 If I must weep with Thee, My Lord, Thy will be done. A-men.

4 My Jesus, as Thou wilt.

When death itself draws nigh,
 Unto Thy wounded side
 For refuge I would fly
 And, clinging to Thee, go
 Where Thou before hast gone.
 My times are in Thy hand:
 My Lord, Thy will be done.

5 My Jesus, as Thou wilt.

All shall be well for me;
 Each changing future scene
 I gladly trust with Thee.
 Thus to my home above
 I travel calmly on
 And sing in life or death,
 My Lord, Thy will be done.



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