

Sunday, June 28, 2020

Greeting: God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day:

By June 22 how many Waupaca Co. residents had died from COVID-19?

Hymn “How Great Is Our God”

Call to Worship

We come to worship trusting in God’s steadfast love.

We gather to worship seeking the way of salvation and peace.

Sometimes we think God has forgotten us.

Often we do not understand what God expects of us.

God deals bountifully with us in much that we take for granted.

God shows us the value of life and helps us celebrate it.

We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.

May God provide what we need to grow in Christ.

Prayer of Invocation

God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac, teach us how to live with integrity of body, mind, and spirit, in obedience to your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

Genesis 22:1-14 *The Message*

After all this, God tested Abraham. God said, “Abraham!”

“Yes?” answered Abraham. “I’m listening.”

[God] said, “Take your dear son Isaac whom you love and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I’ll point out to you.”

Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants and his son Isaac. He had split wood for the burnt offering. He set out for the place God had directed him. On the third day he looked up and saw the place in the distance. Abraham told his two young servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going over there to worship; then we’ll come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac his son to carry. He carried the flint and the knife. The two of them went off together.

Isaac said to Abraham his father, “Father?”

“Yes, my son.”

“We have flint and wood, but where’s the sheep for the burnt offering?”

Abraham said, “Son, God will see to it that there’s a sheep for the burnt offering.” And they kept on walking together.

They arrived at the place to which God had directed him. Abraham built an altar. He laid out the wood. Then he tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood. Abraham reached out and took the knife to kill his son.

Just then an angel of GOD called to him out of Heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Yes, I’m listening.”

“Don’t lay a hand on that boy! Don’t touch him! Now I know how fearlessly you fear God; you didn’t hesitate to place your son, your dear son, on the altar for me.”

Abraham looked up. He saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

Abraham named that place GOD-Yireh (GOD-Sees-to-It). That’s where we get the saying, “On the mountain of GOD, he sees to it.”

Romans 5:1-8 NRSV

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

This time of confession is not meant to weigh us down with guilt, but to free us to respond to God's love. Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

Prayer of Confession

O God, on lonely Mount Moriah you put your servant Abraham to the test. We confess that we have failed much lesser tests of our faith. We have allowed sin to run our lives, to shape how we act toward others, and to kill our relationship with you. In your great mercy, forgive us. Change even our bodies from implements of destruction to instruments of your peace; for the sake of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(Time of silent prayer.)

Hear the good news of God's love: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let us join together with Jesus to pray:

The 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. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

O God, we can offer only what we have been given. You may require our dearest treasure, for it is only lent to us for a time. What you have provided, we are now invited to invest in the disciple-making work of the church. May your people be empowered to give the service each moment requires. Amen.

Message "Who Would You Die For?" Rev. Joyce Rich

Blessing

May the love of God, the grace of Christ,
and the Spirit's peace be with you always. Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn "Spirit of the Living God"

Announcements; Reading For Next Week: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67