

**Sunday, July 12, 2020**

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

**Question of the Day:**

On a father's death the firstborn son became household head and inherited:

a) all b) nothing c) same portion d) double portion of his wealth.

**Hymn** "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

**Call to Worship**

We come to receive God's Word.

**We have come to be instructed by God.**

Minds set on the flesh are hostile to God.

Let us, therefore, open ourselves to the Spirit.

**May the Spirit dwell in us and bring new life.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Holy God, we are grateful for the revelation you provide through the witness of many in the Scriptures. Through their words, help us to discern your Word. Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children. Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide. Feed us, we pray. Amen.**

**Genesis 25:19-34 *The Message***

This is the family tree of Isaac son of Abraham: Abraham had Isaac. Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan Aram. She was the sister of Laban the Aramean.

Isaac prayed hard to GOD for his wife because she was barren. GOD answered his prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. But the children tumbled and kicked inside her so much that she said, "If this is the way it's going to be, why go on living?" She went to GOD to find out what was going on. GOD told her, "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples butting heads while still in your body. One people will overpower the other, and the older will serve the younger."

When her time to give birth came, sure enough, there were twins in her womb. The first came out reddish, as if snugly wrapped in a hairy blanket; they named him Esau (Hairy). His brother followed, his fist clutched tight to Esau's heel; they named him Jacob (Heel). Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

The boys grew up. Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob was a quiet man preferring life indoors among the tents. Isaac loved Esau because he loved his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came in from the field, starved. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of that red stew – I'm starved!" That's how he came to be called Edom (Red).

Jacob said, "Make me a trade: my stew for your rights as the firstborn."

Esau said, "I'm starving! What good is a birthright if I'm dead?"

Jacob said, "First, swear to me." And he did it. On oath Esau traded away his rights as the firstborn. Jacob gave him bread and the stew of lentils. He ate and drank, got up and left. That's how Esau shrugged off his rights as the firstborn.

**Romans 8:1-11 *NRSV***

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of

the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**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**

God knows our need for this time of confession. Do we know our need?

#### **Unison Prayer**

**All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. Free us from our shortsightedness and sin.**

*(Time of silent prayer.)*

#### **Assurance**

The Spirit of life sets us free from our narrow concerns to celebrate the good within and around us. Life in Christ Jesus transforms us through gracious forgiveness. Join with Jesus in praying:

#### **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**

**Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. May our ministry be alive with your love and grace. Amen.**

**Message** "What We Live By" Rev. Joyce Rich

**Blessing** Sisters and brothers, may God, whose forgiveness is boundless; the Christ, whose charge is freedom; the Spirit, which grants us life and peace; keep our minds and hearts in grateful accord as we seek to serve.  
Amen. **And Amen.**

**Hymn** "The Time Has Come, O Lord"

**Announcements; Read For Next Week:** Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25