

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

December 7, 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – West Allis, WI

ISHMAEL

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.

HYMN #354 "Arise, O Christian People"

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us, by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation It is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

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
C **he returns to the earth;**
P on that very day
C **his plans perish.**
P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P All those who await His appearance pray:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P The whole creation pleads:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**
P Awaiting the Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:
C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath and/or on the altar are lighted.

HYMN OF LIGHT #825 "Rise, Shine, You People"

Rise, shine, you people!
Christ the Lord has entered Our human story;
God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.
See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus' glory.
Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation His new creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P 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.**

PSALM 141

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
P O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.
C **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
P Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.
C **Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**
P But my eyes are turned to you, O God; in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.
All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

FIRST READING *Genesis 16*

P A reading from Genesis, the sixteenth chapter.

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.
²And 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.
³So, 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.
⁴And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.
⁵And 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!"
⁶But 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.
⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.
⁸And He said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai."
⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."
¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."
¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.
¹²He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."
¹³So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me."
¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.
¹⁵And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Galatians 4:21–5:1*

P A reading from Galatians, the fourth and fifth chapters.

^{4:21}Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For 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.” ²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But 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.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. ^{5:1}For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING *Luke 3:1–9*

P A reading from Luke, the third chapter.

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As 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. ⁵Every 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, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ” ⁷He 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

HYMN #338 “Come though Long- Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LITANY

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Presidents Wille and Harrison, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For President Biden, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To you, O Lord.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

HYMN #798 "The God of Abraham Praise" (1-3,5-7)

The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame and pow'r,
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

Though nature's strength decay, And earth and hell withstand,
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way At His command.
The wat'ry deep I pass, With Jesus in my view,
And through the howling wilderness My way pursue.

The goodly land I see, With peace and plenty blest:
A land of sacred liberty And endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, And oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow With mercy crowned.

There dwells the Lord our king, The Lord our righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin, The Prince of Peace.
On Zion's sacred height His kingdom He maintains
And glorious with His saints in light Forever reigns.

SERMON "This is My Son: Ishmael"

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

PRAYER

P During this season of Advent, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."
True Son of Adam,
C come, Lord Jesus.
P True Son of Abraham,
C come, Lord Jesus.
P True Son of David,
C come, Lord Jesus.
P True Son of God,
C come, Lord Jesus.
P True Son of Man,
C come, Lord Jesus.
P That we might receive adoption as sons,
C come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C whose hope is in the LORD his God.
P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and
the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations Come" (1-3,5-6)

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.

Worship Leader
Lector
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Don Horn
JoLynn Bender

Special Midweek Services

Wednesday, December 14 @ 10am and 6pm –
"This is My Son - Absalom"

Advent Suppers will be served before the evening
service starting at 4:45pm
December 14 – Baked Spaghetti