

Welcome to Worship

Aug 07, 2022

Prelude

Rorate Caeli ~ Jeanne Demessieux

Gathering Hymn

Blessed Assurance ~ ELW 638

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By 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.

⁸By 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. ⁹By 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. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By 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. ¹²Therefore 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.”

¹³All 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, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But 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.

Psalm

Psalm 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

- ¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**
- ¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- ¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**
- ²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.
- ²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**
- ²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell 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. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be 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. ³⁷Blessed 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. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“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. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Hymn of the Day

Have No Fear, Little Flock ~ ELW 764

This hymn begins with a nearly literal rendering of this week's gospel. We not only await Christ's second coming, but we acclaim the Lord's continuous presence with us now. The first stanza and tune were fashioned by the church composer Heinz Werner Zimmermann, and the subsequent stanzas were written by Marjorie Jillson, who struggled for her whole life with disease. Yet she could say, “Thankful hearts raise to God.”

Musical Offering

*Give Me a Clean Heart ~ Margaret Doroux
arr. John Helgen (Shannon Jones, alto)*

Communion Hymns

Shepherd Me, O God ~ ELW 780

Sending Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise ~ ELW 831

Postlude

Ein' Feste Burg ist Unser Gott ~ Johann Pachelbel