

King of Glory Lutheran Church

June 5/6, 2021

Year B: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Luke 1:46-55

Rev. Debra Abbott

**Genesis 12:1-9**

*12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

*<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.*

**Luke 1:46-55**

*<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

This weekend we are gathering together for worship in new ways, times and places!

Our worship schedule for June finds us worshipping in the Sanctuary on Saturday evening at 5:30 and Sunday morning at 11. And we continue our summer tradition of worshipping in our Outdoor Chapel on Sunday mornings at 8:30. Some of you will continue to join us for our recorded worship found online over email, our website or social media.

It is a joy to be able to worship together in new and old ways as this summer begins and we experience fewer and fewer COVID cases as a community.

Today we are also kicking off Vacation Bible School. We will ask for God's blessing on our children, youth and adult leaders as they gather together this coming week each morning to learn about God's promises from "Generation to Generation."

So today we are going off the lectionary, meaning the assigned readings for this 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend after Pentecost. Instead we have taken a couple of our readings for this week of VBS as our worship texts for this weekend.

Our VBS theme is Generation to Generation and our theme verse is Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Each day of VBS we will hear stories of God's people beginning with Abraham and Sarah.

In our first reading today from Genesis we heard the story of Abraham and Sarah being called to a new place. God promised to be with them on their journey and make from them a great family. Later in Genesis God promises Abraham that his descendants will be more numerous than the sand under his feet or the stars in the sky.

"God keeps God's promises from generation to generation. Even when the present and future seem uncertain, we can trust God's promises." *From Generation to Generation Outdoor Ministries Curriculum, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.*

As we continue to hear stories from generation to generation we will turn to the story of Joseph. Joseph who was loved by his father Jacob but hated by his brothers. Because of their jealousy Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and he was taken to Egypt. But there he dreamed dreams about a famine and Pharaoh put him in charge of storing enough food to feed the people for seven years. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of food he was able to feed them and give them a home in Egypt. Joseph was reunited with his family and forgave his brothers.

"God keeps God's promises from generation to generation. Even when those around us betray us, we can trust God's promises." *From Generation to Generation Outdoor Ministries Curriculum, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.*

Next we will look to the beginning of the story of David. David was an unlikely king. He was the 8<sup>th</sup> son of Jesse and a shepherd boy. But even so he was anointed by Samuel to be king. A child chosen by God to lead. Now David did good things and terrible things during his life. He hurt people, even killed people and loved people. And God never gave up on him.

“God keeps God’s promises from generation to generation. Even when God does the unexpected, we can trust God’s promises.” *From Generation to Generation Outdoor Ministries Curriculum, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.*

For our gospel reading today we come to Mary’s song. When Mary was told by the angel that she would be the mother of Jesus she responded with wonder and amazement. She sings a song of praise and joy of God’s promises for all people, especially those who are in need. In Mary’s song, the Magnificat, we hear of a world being turned upside down by God’s promises from generation to generation. Mary’s life will not be easy. She will give birth in a stable. Flee to Egypt when her family’s life is threatened. Watch her son grow into a man who said and did things that were hard to explain or understand. And she will see Jesus crucified and laid in a tomb. And then she will be surprised again at Jesus’ resurrection.

“God keeps God’s promises from generation to generation. Even when God’s task for us is beyond our understanding, we can trust God’s promises.” *From Generation to Generation Outdoor Ministries Curriculum, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.*

And on our last day of VBS we will turn to the story of Paul’s ministry and Timothy and Lydia who joined him. In Acts 16 Paul travels to Lystra, meets Timothy and Timothy travels on with him speaking to churches and sharing the gospel. They continue their travels and when they come to Philippi they meet a group of women. One of those women was Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, a business woman. She and her household were baptized and she invited Paul and Timothy to stay with her. Paul’s travels and ministry spread the gospel and the church grew. And that is the ministry we continue today.

“God keeps God’s promises from generation to generation, and God’s promises extend to everyone. Even when God sends us to new people and new places, we can trust God’s promises.” *From Generation to Generation Outdoor Ministries Curriculum, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.*

These are the stories of faith we will pass on to our children this week. I share them with you because there is power in the stories we share from generation to generation.

God calls all kinds of people who are young and old, rich and poor, women and men, powerless and powerful, seekers and doubters, to know God’s promises. God calls us in every generation to know God’s promise of love for us that is everlasting.

I invite you to remember Psalm 100:5 this week in your devotions and prayers, “For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

And I invite you to think about and pray about what God's promises mean in your life?

Maybe like Abraham and Sarah you are facing an uncertain future. God will be with you as you journey forward.

Or maybe you are in a relationship that is broken like Joseph and his family. God will bring healing in ways you might never expect when you have been hurt.

Maybe you like David have been called to some new ministry or project or job that you aren't sure you are qualified for. God will give you wisdom and guidance in the work you have been called into.

Or you might wonder how God will do the impossible as Mary did. God will give you hope and strength as you live into the future God has given you.

And in these days we are all entering a new reality as we reflect on the ways we have been changed in this past year and look to what life will be now and in the future. We are like Paul and Timothy and Lydia. God is at work transforming our lives by sending us out to connect with people who need to hear God's promises.

Great is our God who has loved us and walked with us from generation to generation. Blessings to you as you know God's promises for your life this day and all the days ahead.

"For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Amen.