



September 26, 2021, Worship
Encouraging a Culture of Generosity
St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Cary, IL

Prelude

Gloria Peetz

Announcements

Generosity Chat

Danielle Proebsting

Call to Worship and Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

People of God: Amen.

God of unlikely and undeserved blessings, be with us today.

People of God: Thank you for those times when your gracious activity has exceeded our expectations.

Help us as we journey. Help us see you in our dreams. Help us say what Jacob said:

People of God: How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!

Centered for worship and trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us pray. Reconciling God,

People of God: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy, we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

People of God: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Loving God, like Jacob who dreamed of your promises, you have filled us with dreams, too. Show us your promises in our dreams, and give us the courage and

the strength to follow our dreams.

People of God: Amen.

Reading: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Two weeks ago we began at the beginning of Genesis with creation. We skipped over Adam and Eve, Cain killing his brother Abel, Noah's ark and the flood, and we landed at Sarah and Abraham's miracle baby, Isaac, born to them in their old age. Last week we heard the story of Abraham nearly sacrificing Isaac at God's command, and this week we find ourselves at the story of Isaac and Rebekah's adult twin sons, Jacob and Esau.

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." He said, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die." Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; and she put the skins of the kid goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

So he went in to his father, and said, "My father"; and Isaac said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The word of the Lord.

People of God: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Rev. Sarah Wilson

Holy Baptism

Pastor: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Harlow Grace Huffman for baptism.

Pastor: Jake and Laura, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Harlow baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: As you bring Harlow to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Quentin and Michelle, as sponsors do you promise to nurture Harlow in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Harlow and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

People of God: We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

People of God: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

People of God: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

People of God: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

People of God: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People of God: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right

hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People of God: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

People of God: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People of God: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People of God: Amen.

Baptism

Harlow Grace Huffman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People of God: Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life. Sustain Harlow with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

People of God: Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia.

Harlow Grace, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

People of God: Amen.

Welcome

Assisting Minister: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pastor: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People of God: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Song ELW #456 Baptized in Water

Gloria Peetz

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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Prayers of the People

Holy, holy, holy God, in calling forth creation from the void, revealing yourself in human flesh, and pouring forth your wisdom to guide us, you show your love for your whole universe. You invite us, as your people, to gather the world's needs into our hearts and bring them before you.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, increase our trust in your promises and move your church towards acts of love and faith. May our leaders dream dreams of your vision for the world and lead us to work diligently for your coming kingdom. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Bless the earth and seas, O God, that your sustaining power be at work through us to restore creation where it is broken and protect it where it is whole. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Bless the nations of the world, O God, that your peace and justice may prevail over us all. Make your healing presence known especially in those countries torn by disaster or war. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Bless our communities, O God, that reconciliation be our goal and love our guide in all that we say and do. Help us to bring your peace and justice both where we live and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Bless all who suffer, O God, that they may know healing and recovery and that all who comfort them show your love. We pray especially for Kathi, Frank, Audrey, Beth, Priscilla, Tom, Lorie, Dennis, Katie, Carol, Bill, Roger, David, Robert, John, the Vogt Family, Charlie, Pastor Kara, Carol, and those we name silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Please offer your own prayers of joy or concern, ending with "Hear us, O God."

Bless Harlow in her baptism, O God. May she always feel the joy of your presence in her life, and may she always know your love and grace. Strengthen her parents, Laura and Jake; give them wisdom and patience as they raise their children. Thank you for her sponsors, Quentin and Michelle, and their willingness to support Harlow throughout her life. May they always be strong witnesses for her. Hear us, O God.

People of God: Your mercy is great.

Holy, holy, holy God, fill us with strength and courage, with discernment and compassion, that we may be your instruments of justice and love in this world, that it may be on earth as it is in heaven.

People of God: Amen.

The Peace (*Please share peace by waving or showing the peace sign.*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

People of God: And also with you

Offering (*Please place your offerings in the plates as you leave worship.*)

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

People of God: Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

People of God: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

People of God: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People of God: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And now let us pray with confidence in the words that Jesus taught us:

People of God: 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.

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

People of God: Amen.

Sending Song ELW #638 Blessed Assurance

Gloria Peetz

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in generosity.

People of God: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gloria Peetz

Thank you to those serving us today

Pastor: Rev. Sarah Wilson

Worship Assistant: Lorena Skelley

Music: Gloria Peetz

Usher: Allen Keeger

Greeter: Jeanne Soberg

Altar Guild: Challyn Hyde

Sound Board: Phyllis Blumke

AV Tech: Mark Gates

Altar Flowers: Alan and Catherine Cox

In celebration of their 43rd anniversary

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