

*Well, That Was Unexpected!*

## **The Unexpected Call of Abraham**

April 19, 2020

Our lives have been disrupted and changed by this pandemic. It has affected our relationships, our families, our activities, and our schedules. For many, it has affected work and income, savings and expenses. We are left unsure and unsettled about what the future will bring.

These are certainly unexpected changes in our lives. The year 2020 is unfolding in ways that none of us imagined when the year began. How do we respond to these unexpected times? What does it mean for us to confess that Jesus is Lord of All, including this situation, and to seek to follow Him?

We begin a new worship series today: *“Well, That Was Unexpected!”* We will be looking at people from the Bible whom God led in surprising and unexpected ways. Their entire world was turned upside down, leaving them disoriented and cut off from the way things used to be. What can we learn from their stories that helps us in living out our story today?

Today we consider God’s call of Abram (Abraham). God called him to leave his family and his homeland and venture to a new place he had never seen before. Not only that, God called Abram to found a family through which all the nations of the world would be blessed. Well, that was unexpected! What is God saying to us today through the story of the call of Abram?

### **Welcome**

#### **“He’s Risen” (LSB 480)**

He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;	O, where is Your sting, death? We fear you no more;
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.	Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song	For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.	Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary	Then sing Your hosannas and raise Your glad voice;
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.	Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,	Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.	With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

### **Invocation**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **“Lord I Need You”**

Lord I come, I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

#### **Chorus**

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

#### **Chorus**

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

### **Readings**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-9**

**12** The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

<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 set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

<sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>8</sup> From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—  
He who watches over you will not slumber;

<sup>4</sup> indeed, He who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
He will watch over your life;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

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.

**New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11**

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around Him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked Him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.”

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*  
**Praise to You O Christ**

### **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Children’s Message**

### **"Blessed Be Your Name"**

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name

#### **Chorus**

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise  
And when the darkness closes in  
Lord still I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name  
Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name **Chorus**

You give and take away  
You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say  
Lord blessed be Your name **Repeat**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name **Repeat**

### **Sermon**

#### **How Great Is Our God**

The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
And trembles at His voice

#### **Chorus**

How great is our God  
Sing with me  
How great is our God  
And all will see how great  
How great is our God

And age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the End  
Beginning and the End  
The Godhead three in one  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God

## Prayers

*Please add your prayer requests to the live chat*

### Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

### 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 and ever. Amen.

### Blessing

*The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace  
Amen.*

### "Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" (LSB 477)

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He Who on the cross a victim  
For the world's salvation bled--  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil  
In confusion and retreat;

Once He died, and once was buried:  
Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
Whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior  
Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit,  
Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia  
To the triune Majesty!

### Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Think of a time when you needed to move, either across town or across the country. What were the negatives and positives of that experience? In what ways did you see God walking with you through the experience?
2. In some ways Abraham's actions showed great faith and trust in the Lord and in other ways his actions showed doubt. How do our actions show trust in the Lord sometimes and doubt at other times?
3. In today's Gospel reading from Luke 5:1-11, Peter recognizes he is in the presence of God and is afraid because of his sin. How can the knowledge of God's presence bring both fear and comfort to us?
4. Our reading from 1 Peter 1:3-9 describes how our faith in Christ can grow "in all kinds of trials." In what ways do you feel your faith in Christ is growing in this current crisis?
5. Read Hebrews chapter 11, the great faith chapter. Reflect on how God walks with his people of all time through challenging circumstances.

### Memory Verse for This Week

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

Hebrews 11:1

#### St. John's People and Families to Pray for This Week

George and Andrea Clark  
David, Kathy, Eric, Rachael, & Michael Fitzgerald  
Debbie & Anastaxia Kirkpatrick  
Peter, Sarah, Michael, & Stephen Santora  
Eric & Gail Vandeburgt  
Thomas, Rachel, & William Caldwell  
Ian, Kimberly, Faith, & Vincenzo Fradella  
Kristen Lawrence and Colt Maloney  
Peter, Rachel, & Ava Piersig  
Ari, Erin, & Olivia Umutyan

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