

"The Sweet Rewards Of Faith"

05/22 Summary: Wages are usually hard-earned, but gifts and "free rewards" are really sweet. As we wrap up our study of Abraham, "Called To Be God's Friend," we look at the rewards Abraham received--on earth and in eternity--for following God in faith.

+ WORSHIP OUR GOD +

LSB 807 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES sts. 1, 4–5

1 When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

4 Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
 Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"

God's whole creation o'er, Both now and evermore
 Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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Text: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828, Würzburg; tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

HYMN OF CONFESSION: LSB 702 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE st. 1

1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

Text: Public domain

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF ABSOLUTION LSB 702 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE st. 2

2 May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;

My zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

Text: Public domain

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 15:1–6 NIV

^{15:1}After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 4:1–18 NIV

^{4:1}What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ *“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

⁸ *Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”*

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 8:5–13 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that

one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 722 LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.

Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

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Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

MESSAGE: "THE SWEET REWARDS OF FAITH"

Study of Abraham, "Called To Be God's Friend" part 4

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He

broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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.**

LSB 547 THE LAMB

sts. 1, ref, 2, 4–5

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?

Faith sees, believes

God will provide the Lamb of price! **Refrain**

ref **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!**
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

5 He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.

His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

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Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

P 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.

C **Amen.**

HWC 345 BLESSED ASSURANCE

1 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 **(CHORUS)**

CHORUS

**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**

2 Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst at my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love **(CHORUS)**

3 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 **(CHORUS)**

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