

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **Still our hearts and calm our minds. Remind us of your steadfast love, and teach us to trust in your promises, for you keep your word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15: 1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.



The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:8

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER JOHN YARBERRY

VERSE 5, HE BROUGHT HIM OUTSIDE AND SAID, “LOOK TOWARD HEAVEN AND COUNT THE STARS, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO COUNT THEM.”. THEN HE SAID TO HIM, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” I CAN REMEMBER SOME CAMPING TRIPS WHERE THE STARS APPEARED SO BRIGHTLY THAT YOU FELT YOU COULD ALMOST REACH OUT AND TOUCH THEM. OR THOSE TIMES WHEN MY FRIENDS AND I WOULD LAY DOWN IN THE GRASS LATE AT NIGHT AND MARVEL AT THE STARS, AND NAME THE DIFFERENT STAR FORMATIONS. THOSE WERE TRULY MAGICAL TIMES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. TIMES THAT YOU NEVER FORGET.

THIS STORY SPANS THE MILLENNIA RECOUNTING ABRAHAM’S LEGACY AS THE FATHER OF A GREAT NATION. A STORY OF GREAT FAITH, AND THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR STORY AS CHRISTIANS. AS ABRAHAM PERUSED THE NIGHT SKY CONTEMPLATING GOD’S PROMISE, WHILE IN AWE AT THE IDEA OF HIS DESCENDANTS OUTNUMBERING THE STARS IN HEAVEN, HE RESTED IN GOD’S PROMISE. HIS FEARS WERE RELIEVED.

AND SO SHOULD WE REST IN THE PROMISE THAT WE ARE ALSO PART OF THIS VAST FAMILY OF GOD’S. REMEMBERING, AS ABRAHAM DID, WHO WE ARE LOVED BY, AND THE PROMISE THAT WE TOO HAVE GOD AS A PROTECTOR, LIVING EACH DAY INTO THAT PROMISE.

SO WHEN YOU LOOK UP AT NIGHT, THINK OF ABRAHAM LOOKING AT THE SAME NIGHT SKY SO MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO. THESE STARS REPRESENT ALL THE FAMILY OF SAINTS, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

AMEN

HYMN OF THE DAY | AS GRAINS OF WHEAT

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/IAQN5D0VYNS?SI=S0KOZ0CR-DEESUPR](https://youtu.be/IAQN5D0VYNS?si=S0Koz0CR-dEESuPr)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, trusting in your gracious love and care.

A brief silence.

We pray for greater trust in you. Your love is steadfast, and your word is true. Help us to hold onto your promises and walk in your ways. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for creatures great and small. Tend to your creation and inspire us in efforts to protect and care for the earth. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for elected officials at all levels. From local to state to national, help leaders listen to those most in need, and to make decisions grounded in wisdom and compassion for all people. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing, for Pastor Phil, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Terry; for Rick and Kelly, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain. Many are isolated or otherwise feel alone in this world. Bring them comfort and connection. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are experiencing loss. Draw near to those who have lost jobs, loved ones, or anything else dear to them. Grant them space to grieve, and uplift them in their sorrow. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our ability to care for one another. Let us love, not in words or speech, but in truth and action. Strengthen and equip us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community: The Community Infant Program, Little Free Pantry, All Roads of Boulder, Rise Against Suicide, and the other acts of kindness we share with one another. Use us to share Christ's love with our neighbors in need, especially those who are lost, poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower those who nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of children and adults living on the Autism Spectrum. Help us to help them reach their fullest potential. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and Palestine; for Ukraine and Russia. Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move among us, breaking down walls that divide, giving light and courage to the refugee and the most vulnerable in society, ushering in the day that all may live in safety and security. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for all the saints. Help us to learn about their lives and their witness, and may their faithfulness inspire us in our time to lead faithful lives as well. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

These and all our prayers we lift up to you, O God. **Amen.**

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15– SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Sunday, September 15th - God's Promise to Abraham

9:30 a.m. Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/ Holy Communion
Coffee and Conversation Immediately following worship

Wednesday, September 18th

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study

Friday, September 20th

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. – Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

Sunday, September 22nd - God Works Through Joseph

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee and Conversation Immediately following worship

<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u> CLIFF T. 9/1 JIM E. 9/9 SCOTT F. 9/24</p>
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DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Monday, September 16, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-221-19-abrahams-sacrifice2024>

Genesis 22:1-19 Abraham's Sacrifice

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-241-67-isaac-and-rebekah2024>

Genesis 24:1-67 Isaac and Rebekah

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-271-29-jacob-steals-esaus-blessing2024>

Genesis 27:1-29 Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing

Thursday, September 19, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-299-30-jacob-marries-leah-then-rachel2024>

Genesis 29:9-30 Jacob Marries Leah then Rachel

Friday, September 20, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-3222-32-jacob-wrestles-an-angel2024>

Genesis 32:22-32 Jacob Wrestles an Angel

Saturday, September 21, 2024

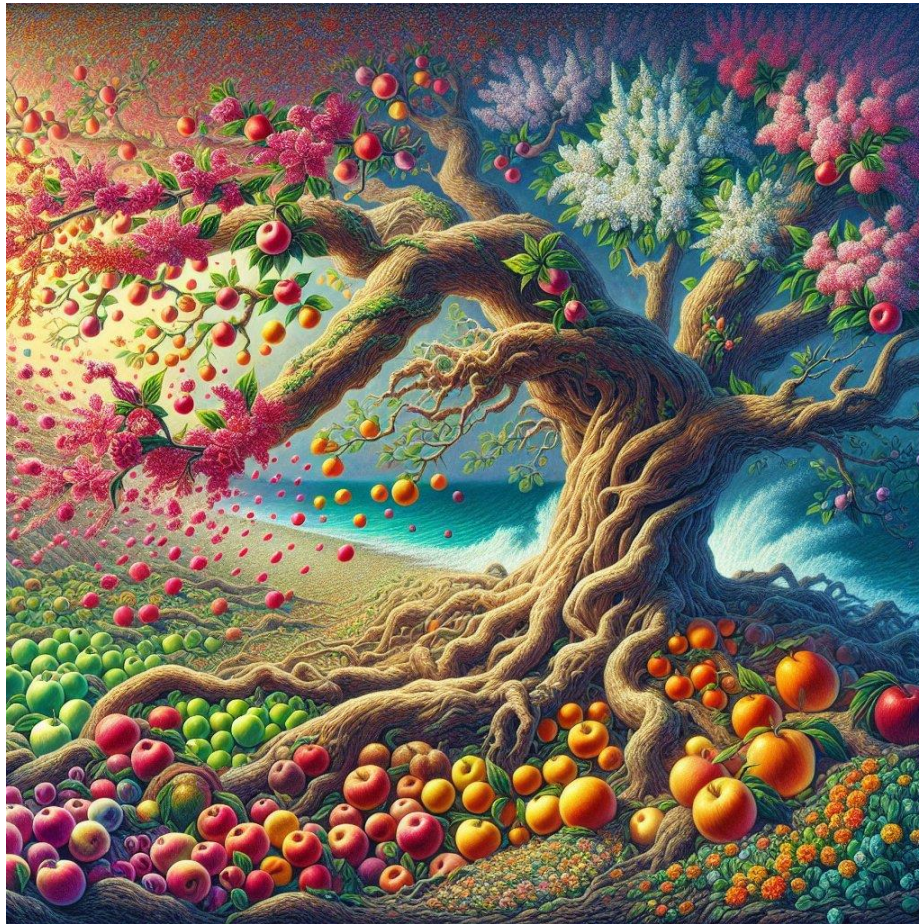
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-341-31-the-rape-of-dinah2024>

Genesis 34:1-31 The Rape of Dinah

Sunday, September 22, 2024

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/genesis-373-8-17b-22-26-34-5015-21-god-works-through-joseph2024>

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 22-26; 50:15-21 God Works Through Joseph



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.