

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (v22)

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life & light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; & he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac & Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect & builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, & this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven & as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw & greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers & foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Since we're jumping to the end of *Hebrews*, read your study Bible's introductory notes on the book. The Lutheran Study Bible by Concordia Publishing has excellent notes & articles in *Hebrews*. Wikipedia's page is not bad either for introducing a few main ideas, including the author's anonymity. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_to_the_Hebrews
2. The author of Hebrews was familiar with the Apostles' teachings, especially Sts. Paul & James. What do the following cross-references with St. John's Gospel add to the *apostolicity* of Hebrew's connecting Jesus with God (the Father)'s glory, power, work, etc. to explain his death on the cross? Let your footnotes help you. See *Hebrews* 1:3, 7:3, 11:3, 13:8; *John* 1:1-4, 10:30, 14:11; *surrounding verses may add context; #1 & Nicene Creed will help here, too*. Creed available bookofconcord.org

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed & its Small Catechism explanation. How does it connect to v3? What promised things does your faith receive in the present? What promised things are still hoped (“waited”) for? *SC available* bookofconcord.org
4. What do we learn about faith active in love (*Galatians* 5:6) from vv8-12 with the example of Abraham & Sarah? How old is too old to serve? To strive with faith & hope? How does (or doesn't) retirement from a career mean a retirement from joining Jesus on his mission in your everyday life?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Our preaching series “Cloudy Skies” is about finding encouragement for the struggles of everyday life. What is encouraging to you in this passage? Who needs to hear this encouragement from you?
6. We place a lot of value on being from the place you live or work. But, in the Bible God's people are often on the move. How can your congregation be useful, helpful, & loving to new residents?

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Cloudy Skies

08.07.22

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Sure Thing

Recalibrating to find terra firma once again.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared
by the word of God, so that what is seen was made
from things that are not visible. (v3)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Keep awake & be ready, for you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming. (*Matthew 24:42, 44*)

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