



March 25, 2020

Lent 4: The Faith of the Israelites

By faith, generations of Israelites wandered the wilderness, entered the promised land, heard the words of the prophets, and suffered persecution. Amid life's joys and difficulties, how do we persevere in our faith?

*The congregation may remain seated for the entire service.
Congregational responses are printed in bold text.*

Opening Dialogue

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus,
let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

Gathering Song

Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

Reading

Hebrews 11:1, 29-40

Reflection

Pastor Scottie

The reflection concludes:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hymn of the Day

We've Come This Far by Faith

Refrain – All

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by
faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader

1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your
done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

Refrain

praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003

Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson

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Prayers

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,

that all may know your peace.

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,

that all may know your love.

Comfort the sick and dying,

that all may know your mercy.

Guide our leaders in the way of truth,

that all may know your justice.

Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,

that all may have faith in you.

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that

my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a

strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable

to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen

my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure

of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to

be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the

fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with

you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave us:

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 God of peace,

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep,

make you complete in everything good

so that you may do God's will,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please greet one another with words of peace.)