



May 15, 2025

*Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*  
Judaism

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

**Psalm 100 - A Psalm of thanksgiving.**

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> **Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.**

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;<sup>[a]</sup>  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.

**Give thanks to him; bless his name.**

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Hymns – Lisa Schlotterbeck**

♪ Shalom Chaverim – attached

♪ ELW 831 - The God of Abraham Praise vs 1, 2 & 4

♪ Hava Nagila - attached

## Scripture

### The Shema– Deuteronomy 6:1-9

**6** These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### The Call of Abram – Genesis 12:1-7

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<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 departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak<sup>[b]</sup> of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

### The Birth of Isaac - Genesis 21:1-21

**21** The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” <sup>7</sup> And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

### Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

<sup>8</sup> The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham,

playing with her son Isaac.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup> The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup> As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." <sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

## Quick Overview of Judaism

At the core of modern Judaism are three basic concepts: **God, Torah, and Israel.**

**God** - As Judaism explains who God is, there are several key points to keep in mind.

- God is the creator of the universe.
- God is the redeemer who freed the people from slavery in Egypt and will provide the final redemption.
- God is the revealer of the teachings and laws that constitute the Torah.
- God created human beings and entered a covenant relationship with the Jewish people through Abraham.
- The people continue the covenant relationship with God within a community through observance of the mitzvot or "commandments." Hebrew scripture has 613 mitzvot, which are interpreted over the ages by the rabbis.

**Torah** - The Torah is also a complex concept in modern Judaism.

- The Torah is first and foremost the five books of Moses (which we know as Genesis through Deuteronomy) as "revealed" on Mount Sinai.
- Torah also includes a long history and tradition of rabbinic interpretation of these Books.
- Torah is continually growing and changing as the body of interpretations of rituals, theology, and ethics is added to over the years.

**Israel** – “Israel” refers both to the people and to the nation with its political, geographic, and cultural identities.

- The people of Israel are very diverse. They include communities with different languages, rituals, and liturgies.
- Since 1948 there has been an "independent state" called Israel. However, it is important to remember that not all Israelis are Jews and not all Jews are connected to the State of Israel.
- There is also an ethnic identity for some people who consider themselves to be "Jews," and yet they do not participate in any personal or communal observances or rituals.

### **Modern Judaism**

- Jewish people today celebrate rituals in the home as well as services at the synagogue or temple.
- You may be familiar with weekly Shabbat or Sabbath worship and the annual celebrations of Chanukkah (Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights) and Pesach or Passover.
- At some point during history, Jews were expelled from every Christian country in Europe except Holland and the Scandinavian countries.
- The Holocaust and the establishment of the modern State of Israel have also changed the identity of the Jewish people in fundamental ways.
- There are Four major Jewish sects in the United States today – Reformed, Reconstructionist, Conservative, Orthodox (in order from most liberal to most conservative)

### **Discussion**

1. What experiences have you had with the Jewish faith?
2. Have you ever attended a Jewish ceremony such as a Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Jewish wedding or Seder meal? Or have you traveled to the Holy Lands?
  - a. If so, what was that like?
3. What similarities do Christianity and Judaism share?
  - a. How do think the ideas of “Chosen People” and “Promised Land” impact Jewish identity and faith?
  - b. How do Judaism and Christianity relate to the Islamic faith?
4. God asked Abraham to leave his home and family and go to a far-off country. If you were in his place, how would you have responded?
  - a. Has God ever asked anything hard or risky of you?
5. The Jewish people have a long history of living among other cultures as a minority within those cultures. How do you think that has shaped their lives and faith?
6. In what ways are Jewish culture, ethnicity, and faith related and how are they separate?
  - a. What does it mean to be a secular Jew?
7. What Jewish faith practices might Christians find helpful to adopt?

## Preparing for our visit to the Mount Zion Jewish Temple

1300 Summit Ave, St. Paul, June 5, 10 AM

- Carpooling
- What to expect
- Mount Zion is a Reformed Jewish congregation
- Clothing – don't wear a cross, men may be asked to wear a Yarmelke (head piece) in the sanctuary
- Our tour guide – Jean King, converted to Judaism from having been a Presbyterian
- She is eager to hear our questions and to share her story as well as show us items in the temple and tell us about them.
- Come with a curious and open mind and feel free to ask questions.

## Birthdays

## Lord's Prayer

### Benediction from Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

## Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
5/22		Pre-Memorial Day Weekend – No Bible Study
5/29	67-71	Islam – guest speaker
6/5		Field Trip – Mount Zion Jewish Temple
6/12	9-22	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Preface & Introduction
6/19	23-35	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Love
6/26	37-54	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Joy
7/3		Off for Independence Day Holiday
7/10	55-67	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Peace
7/17	69-82	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Patience
7/24	83-96	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Kindness
7/31	97-112	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Goodness
8/7	113-125	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness
8/14	127-142	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Gentleness
8/21	143-164	Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit – Self Control (+ Conclusion & Epilogue)
8/28		Labor Day Holiday – No Bible Study
9/4		New Topic for Fall