

Genesis 22:1-14
Matthew 10:40-42

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Many times we have heard and read the story of Abraham's call to sacrifice his beloved son.

It is so dramatic, such a study of unshakeable faith, that we never tire of hearing it.

It is always incredibly shocking that God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son, and it is just as shocking that Abraham doesn't fight with God.

He takes all the necessary steps to prepare.

Isaac himself is fascinated by their journey until he realizes that they have the necessary fire and wood, but no sacrificial lamb.

Abraham quietly replies that God himself will provide what they need.

And it is not until the very last minute, as Abraham lifts the knife, that the angel of the LORD calls out to him to stop.

God now knows that Abraham is still in awe of God, and Abraham's faith has been proven by the most drastic challenge.

God does indeed provide a ram for the sacrifice, and they are all blessed.

When you go camping, picnicking or on some other trip into the countryside, what provisions to you take?

How do you decide what you will need and want?

And if your store is out of one or two items,

will you go elsewhere to look,
or will you find a suitable replacement right there?

Would you pray for God's help to complete your shopping list?
Abraham trusted God to provide the sacrifice—
even if it had to be his precious son.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus speaks simply of profound matters.
Anyone who welcomes one of Jesus' disciples also welcomes Jesus,
and therefore by welcoming Jesus, they also welcome God the Father,
the one who sent Jesus.

God provides blessings to those who bless others.

Anyone who welcomes a prophet in the holy name of the prophet
will be blessed just as God blesses his prophets.

Anyone who welcomes a righteous person in the name of another
righteous person will also be blessed.

And anyone who gives even a cold cup of water to a child
in the name of one of the disciples will be blessed.

Jesus promises none of these caring, loving, faithful people
will lose their reward.

God will provide.

Let us pray:

Wherever we are, Lord,

We know we are together, united in faithful prayer.

We thank you Father God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit,

we glorify you, we worship you,
and we count on you, especially during these devastating times,
to bless us with continuing faith and health.

Equip us always with strong faith and the right words
to adequately tell your story of salvation,
that more souls may be harvested.

Bless the fathers in our lives for their loving presence.

You are our Rock and our Redeemer.

You sustain us with your never-ending love.

You encourage us to express with joy our love for you.

In your precious name we pray,

Amen.