

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 5:15–6:6

English Standard Version Scripture Text

I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. Israel and Judah Are Unrepentant 6:1 “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” 4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. 5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. 6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Historical Context

Hosea ministered in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during a period of political turmoil and spiritual decline. God calls His people to repentance, exposing the emptiness of outward religious practice when it is disconnected from covenant faithfulness and steadfast love.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Hosea 5:15 – God withdraws until His people acknowledge their guilt and seek Him.

Hosea 6:1–2 – The people express a desire to return to the LORD for healing and restoration.

Hosea 6:3 – God’s faithfulness is compared to the certainty of the dawn and the rains.

Hosea 6:4 – Israel’s devotion is temporary and inconsistent.

Hosea 6:5 – God uses the prophets to expose sin and call for repentance.

Hosea 6:6 – God desires steadfast love and the knowledge of God rather than mere ritual.

Theological Themes

- Repentance and restoration
- Covenant faithfulness
- Steadfast love and mercy
- Genuine devotion versus empty religion

Epistle Reading

Romans 4:13–25

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Historical Context

Paul presents Abraham as the supreme example of justification by faith. God’s promises are received through faith and grace rather than works of the Law.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 13–15 – God’s promise came through faith rather than the Law.

Verses 16–17 – The promise rests on grace and extends to all who believe.

Verses 18–19 – Abraham trusted God despite impossible circumstances.

Verses 20–21 – His faith was strengthened because he trusted God’s promises.

Verses 22–24 – Abraham’s faith was counted as righteousness.

Verse 25 – Christ was delivered for our sins and raised for our justification.

Theological Themes

- Justification by faith
- God’s faithfulness
- Grace over human achievement
- Resurrection and salvation
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Concluding Reflection

These readings emphasize the relationship between faith and faithfulness. Hosea reminds God’s people that true devotion is measured by steadfast love rather than religious performance. Paul points to Abraham’s unwavering trust in God’s promises as the model of faith.

Thoughts to Consider

1. What does Hosea 6:6 teach about the relationship God desires?
2. Why can religious activity become disconnected from genuine faith?
3. What circumstances made Abraham’s faith remarkable?
4. How does justification by faith challenge earning God’s favor?
5. What habits help believers grow in trust and faithfulness?