**Week of September 2, 2018**

**God's Covenant with Noah**

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse[a] the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

6

“Whoever sheds the blood of man,

by man shall his blood be shed,

for God made man in his own image.

7 And you,[b] be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

In this week’s scripture we visit the story of Noah. Although many of us saved or unsaved when we here think about the story of Noah we think about the flood itself, the number of animals that were brought upon the Ark. We think about the Ark itself and Noah’s family. Very rarely to we discuss the promise. Has anyone made a promise to you and then broken it? How did you feel? It probably was not a good feeling and it probably made you think twice when the next person promised you something. In the beginning of today’s scripture, we find Noah offering up a pleasing sacrifice to God. How do we know it was pleasing; God made a promise based upon the offering and said these words: “Never again will curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creature, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” God’s heart is not like man’s that is full of evil, but God is pure. Everything on earth had been destroyed by flood except those things that were in the Ark with Noah. God established a covenant with Noah and man. A covenant is an agreement. A covenant with God is an agreement that he makes that is basically giving a promise. Since God cannot lie it ensures us that God’s promise or agreement will not be broken. We will not be let down and others may let us down. God sealed his covenant with a sign for us. So, what was the covenant? The covenant was that God will never again destroy all life by waters of a flood. Some may wonder about the deaths during hurricanes or tsunamis. Although natural disasters are up under God’s control his promise is still in tack. All life has not been destroyed. God shows us his sign of promise each time we see a rainbow.