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| **Laughter In Response to God’s Word?**  *Promise: God’s Word will prove true, and we can laugh with joy* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Genesis 18:1-14; Ps 27:7-14; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke 10:38-42 (6th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 11), 7/20/25)  *The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’”* – v. 13  **Lead In –** One of my fond and blessed memories of my mother was her uniform response to a birth announcement. And being the oldest of five, and then having two of my sisters have, in one case 12 and in the other 6 children, I witnessed her response on many occasions. And then of course, Leslie and I announced to our parents four times that we were expecting, and with our fourth this came 13 years after our third. And my mom’s response? She would just start laughing as her eyes lit up, and she would share her excitement. She loved babies. Her laughter was different than was Sarah’s in our First Reading, but when it comes to God’s Word, we will see who always gets the last laugh…   1. **Abraham Had Already Heard from God and Laughed**    1. Abram got a name change in chpt 17, and that not all…    2. Sarah who is 90 will bear the 99yr old a son…    3. The possibility his laughter was not out of doubt… 2. **This Sunday’s Theme Focuses on the Word of God**    1. The Introit, Collect, Epistle, and Gospel…    2. God’s Word comes to A & S in Middle East heat…    3. There is no Word impossible for God… 3. **Sarah May Have Doubted But She Didn’t Mock or Scorn**    1. Sarah is mildly rebuked for lying…    2. The scornful laugh will not get the last laugh! …    3. With the name Isaac we all get to laugh with A & S…   **Final Word –** The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10 that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” His Word works repentance and faith and combined with water in Baptism it bestows new birth. It continues to bring forgiveness and fortifies our trust in its guidance. God’s Word combined with the bread and wine of Holy Communion nourishes us with Christ’s very body and blood. Some may continue to mock and show disdain to God’s Word, but rest assured they will not get the last laugh. We who hold Fast to God’s Word, who read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it, will with Christ get the last and longest laugh of joy, relief, and satisfaction.  **Ge 17:4-5** “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”  **Ge 17:10** This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.  **Ge 17:15-16** And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. (Abe 99 and Sarah 90)  **Ge 17:17** Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”  **Ge 15:6** And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. | **Genesis 18:1-14 ESV**  *Isaac’s Birth Promised*  1The Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. 2He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth 3and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, 5while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” 7And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. 8Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.  9They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” 10The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. 12So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” 13The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ 14Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”  **Jn 8:56** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”  **He 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.  **Ge 18:18** Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?  **Ge 49:10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet. (2 Sam 7:12-16 – Son of David)  **Mt 21:9** And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”  **He 11:11** By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.  **Ps 2:4** He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.  **Ge 21:6** And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” |