

Readings + Second Sunday in Lent, year C + March 16, 2025

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ The LORD brought Abram outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then the LORD said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Abram, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ The LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ Abram brought the LORD all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch

passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Psalmody Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message— ‘Seek my face.’ Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!

Second Reading Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Paul writes: ¹⁷ My dear family, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ The Lord will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** ¹ Therefore, my dear family, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Holy Gospel Luke 13:31-35

Luke only:

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² Jesus said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’”

Luke and Matthew:

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”