

# Readings + 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 C + July 27, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## First Reading Genesis 18:20-32

<sup>20</sup> The LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

<sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

<sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And the LORD said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

<sup>29</sup> Again Abraham spoke to the LORD, "Suppose forty are found there." The LORD answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

<sup>30</sup> Then Abraham said, "Oh do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." The LORD answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

<sup>31</sup> Abraham said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." The LORD answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

<sup>32</sup> Then Abraham said, "Oh do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." The LORD answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

## Psalmody Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## Second Reading Colossians 2:6-19

*Paul writes:* <sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in

Christ, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In Christ also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with Christ in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. God set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> God disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

## Holy Gospel Luke 11:1-13

*Matthew and Luke both recount the Lord's Prayer, but their versions differ slightly, and Luke only adds the introductory setting. We use Matthew's version in worship.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his

disciples." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.  
May our kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,  
as we ourselves forgive everyone  
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

*Luke is the only evangelist to relate this parable:*

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to that friend at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set out.' <sup>7</sup> And the friend answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though the friend will not get up and provide anything out of friendship, at least because of the neighbor's persistence the friend will get up and provide whatever is needed.

*Matthew and Luke both include these next verses (Luke uses "egg and scorpion" and "the Holy Spirit" in v. 13 instead of Matthew's "good things"):*

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!"