

# Readings + 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Lect 19 C + August 10, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## First Reading Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup> 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.” <sup>2</sup> 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?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> 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.” <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## Psalmody Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!  
**The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

**Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

## Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For Abraham looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered faithful the one who had promised.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” <sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

<sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

## Holy Gospel Luke 12:32-40

*Matthew and Luke both recount some of Jesus' words about anxiety, but locate it in different places in their Gospels, and with varying details.*

Jesus said, <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give the realm to you. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Only Luke relates this parable of Jesus:*

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so

that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; I tell you the truth, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If the master comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

*Matthew and Luke:*

<sup>39</sup> “But know this,” Jesus said: “if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let the house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son-of-Humanity is coming at an unexpected hour.”