



LECTIONARY

FIRST READING

GENESIS 12:1-4A

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 4:1-5,13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: “*What Wondrous Love is This*” #439

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

GOSPEL

JOHN 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”



Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each prayer with the phrase: **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray to God, whose Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, taught us to be humble in our piety: We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Bishop Kirk; Fr. Victor, and Fr. Donne. (pause) Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: As Jesus stood firmly against the temptation of Satan, we ask God to guide and bless our Diocese. Especially Christ Church of the Ascension, Paradise Valley, AZ and the Anglican Communion Church of Kenya. (pause). Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: Just as Abram showed his faith in God, we pray for Sierra Vista that we may open our hearts with faith to welcome, respect and care for each other. (pause). Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: As the Father of the Prodigal Son forgave him and was reconciled to his son, we pray that you will guide world leaders to ways of Justice and reconciliation. (pause). Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: Help us to be aware and accountable for the environment around us. (pause). Lord, in your mercy .

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: Help us to recognize your divine face in the eyes of all who are suffering. (pause). Lord, in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: Remembering that Jesus told his disciples to follow Him and minister to the sick, poor and those in mourning: let us pray for those we now name-- either aloud or silently in our hearts (pause). Lord, in your mercy .

Response: Hear our prayer!

Leader: As Jesus responded to Mary and Martha when Lazarus died, we pray for our departed loved ones--especially those we now name, either silently or aloud (pause). Give them your peace. (pause). Lord, in your mercy .

Response: Hear our prayer!