



Lectionary

FIRST READING

GENESIS 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:105-112

105 Your word is a lantern to
my feet *
and a light upon my path.
106 I have sworn and am
determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord,
according to your word.
108 Accept, O Lord, the willing
tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.

109 My life is always in my
hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have set a trap
for me, *
but I have not strayed from your
commandments.
111 Your decrees are my inheritance
for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my
heart.
112 I have applied my heart to
fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: *"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"*

#291

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus*

*Christ according to **Matthew**.*

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



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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 of these prayers with the phrase: **Christ hear us!**

Let us pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion especially for the church of Ontario, Canada;

We Pray... **Christ hear us!**

We pray also for all in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona and on this day we ask that our ministry here at St. Stephen's be fruitful;

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

Let us pray for our nation, may God's loving touch be with the US Marines killed in the Mississippi air crash and with all who mourn;

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

We pray for our Armed Forces, for their safety and the wellbeing of their families and loved ones;

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

Let us pray for our world, asking God to inspire a coordinated effort at curbing modern piracy;

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

We pray for Sierra Vista and our surrounding area, thanking God for the blessed gift of rain;

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

Let us pray for those who are poor, sick, mourning or experiencing any kind of suffering. Please say aloud the names of any for whom you wish to pray;

Pause for people to mention names then say:

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**

Let us pray for our friends and loved ones, who have departed this life, may they enjoy the glory of the heavenly city. Please say the names of any for whom you wish to pray;

Pause for people to mention names then say:

We pray. . . **Christ hear us!**