

Sunday, August 8, 2010
Lectionary 19
Proper 14
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1–6

A reading from _____.

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

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." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But 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." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12–22

Refrain: Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

¹²Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to ¹ be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks ¹ down from heaven,
and sees all ¹ humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly en- ¹ throned and watches
all who dwell ¹ on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions ¹ all their hearts
and observes ¹ all their deeds. R**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size ¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**
¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,
¹⁹**to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine. R**
²⁰Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.
²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**
²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

A reading from _____.

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By 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.

⁸By 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. ⁹By 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. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore 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."

¹³All 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, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32–40

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³Sell 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. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be 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. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

For all whose vocation is to preach the gospel, that they may grow in the art of proclaiming the gospel with clarity and conviction. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who look toward heaven and count the stars: astronomers, astronauts, air traffic controllers, and meteorologists, that they may use their talents to improve life on earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For world leaders, that they may recognize war as a vain hope for peace and work toward justice for all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the poor, the lonely, the fearful, and the sick (*especially*), that they may experience your good pleasure and freedom from want. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly, that we may place our hearts and trust in the true treasure of righteousness given through Christ, claiming our inheritance as children of God, as did Sarah and Abraham. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving for those before us who lived by faith (*especially Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers, whom we commemorate today*), we pray that you will keep us steadfast in you until we join them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

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