

**Sentence of Scripture**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3.20

**Prayer of the day**

God of our ancestors,  
 whose chosen servant Abraham  
 was given faith to obey your call  
 and go out into the unknown:  
 endow your Church with such faith  
 that we may follow you with courage;  
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Readings****Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18**

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> He 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.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”<sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

(NRSV)

## Psalm 27

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?:

**the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me:

**they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:

**and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.**

<sup>4</sup> One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

<sup>5</sup> To see the fair beauty of the Lord:

**and to seek his will in his temple.**

<sup>6</sup> For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble:

**and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.**

<sup>7</sup> And now he will lift up my head:

**above my enemies round about me.**

<sup>8</sup> And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation:

**I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:

**have mercy upon me and answer me.**

<sup>10</sup> My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':

**your face, Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not hide your face from me:

**or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;**

<sup>12</sup> For you have been my helper:

**do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

<sup>13</sup> Though my father and my mother forsake me:

**the Lord will take me up.**

<sup>14</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord:

**and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.**

<sup>15</sup> Do not give me over to the will of my enemies:

**for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and those who breathe out violence.**

<sup>16</sup> But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord:

**in the land of the living.**

<sup>17</sup> O wait for the Lord; stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:

**and wait, I say, for the Lord.**

### Philippians 3:17–4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

### Luke 13:31–35

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ” (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**