

The First Lesson *Please be seated* Genesis 12:1-4a

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.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos Chant in D by Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.

2. My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.

3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5. The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

6. So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.

7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson *Please be seated* *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 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

Tract: Thy love O Lord reaches to the heavens, and thy faithfulness to the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the strong mountains; thy justice is like the great deep; thou savest both man and beast O Lord. How priceless is thy love O God; thy people take refuge under the shadow of thy wings; They feast upon abundance of thy house; thou givest them drink from the river of thy delights. For with thee is the well of life; and in thy light we see light

The Holy Gospel John 3:1-17

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.”.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Rector

The Nicene Creed Said by all, standing. Prayer Book p. 326

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Please kneel. Prayer Book p. 328

The Confession & Absolution Said by all. Prayer Book p. 330

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Greeting & Announcements

Offertory Verse: I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation. do not withhold thy compassion from; let thy love keep me safe forever.

Offertory Hymn 489 The great Creator of the worlds *Tallis-ordinal*
Hymnal, S 112

Sanctus & Benedictus Sung by all. Hymnal S 113

Eucharistic Prayer I Prayer Book p. 333

The Lord’s Prayer Sung by all. Hymnal, S 119

Agnus Dei Sung by all. Hymnal S 157

The Prayer of Humble Access Said by all.

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takest away the sins of the world.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Verse For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish; but have everlasting life.

Communion Anthem: *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake*
Richard Farrant (1530-1580)

Communion Hymn 337 And now, O Father, mindful of the love
Unde et Memores

Post-Communion Prayer Prayer Book p. 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.