

THE READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

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.' 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?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' 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.' The Lord brought Abraham 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.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15. 1–6

THE PSALM

R/. Let your loving kindness be upon you, O Lord.

The Lord looks down from heaven
and beholds all the chil | dren of earth.
From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze
on all who dwell | on the earth.
He fashions | all of them
and understands | all their works. R/.

No king is saved by the might | of his host;
No warrior delivered by | his great strength.
A horse is a vain hope | for deliverance;
for all its strength it | cannot save. R/.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon | those who fear him,
on those who wait in hope for his | steadfast love,
To deliver their | soul from death
and to feed them in | time of famine. R/.

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord;
he is our help | and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we | put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness O Lord, | be upon us,
as we have set our | hope on you. R/.

Psalms 33. 13-22

THE READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By 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. By 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. By 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. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By 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. Therefore 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.’ All 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, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But 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.

Hebrews 11. 1–3, 8–16

THE READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell 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. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be 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. Blessed 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. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But 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. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Luke 12.32-40