

First Reader: **A Reading from 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." 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." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: **Our response today is a portion of Psalm 33. We will recite the Psalm responsively by whole verse.**

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

13 **The Lord looks down from heaven, ***
and beholds all the people in the world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.

15 **He fashions all the hearts of them ***
and understands all their works.

16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

17 **The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; ***
for all its strength it cannot save.

18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,

19 **To pluck their lives from death, ***
and to feed them in time of famine.

20 Our soul waits for the Lord; *
he is our help and our shield.

21 **Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, ***
for in his holy Name we put our trust.

22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

Second Reader: **A reading from Hebrews.**

Now 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.

Lector: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM 6

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *hold Silence for a moment...*

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. This morning, we pray also for parishioners who will be moving away: for Leslie Kjellstrand, for Beth Nelson, for Austin Cooney and Jace Cooney. Lord, we thank you for our time together; and pray that you would continue to bless them in their journey. Lord, watch over their going out, and their coming in, this day and forevermore.

hold brief silence.

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Hold Silence for a moment; the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence; The People may add their own remembrances

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

the Celebrant will conclude with a Collect.