

First Reader: **A READING FROM GENESIS**

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Our Responsorial Psalm is Psalm 121. We will respond by whole verse.**

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

2 **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 **The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The Prayers of the People can be found on page 7 of your bulletin.

Siblings, the Spirit of God dwells in you. Let us appeal to our God, saying, “We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**”

Breathe new life into your Church, O Lord. Where our bones are dried up, where our hope is lost, cause your life-giving breath to enter. Give us confidence in the truth that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. *The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

Many are they who wait for you, O Lord. Speak into the souls of those suffering throughout the world, a word of hope. *Silence*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

Creating God, it is the wind of your Spirit that sweeps across this planet. Renew and refresh your creation; bring forth newness in dead places. *Silence*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

With you, O Lord, there is plenteous redemption. Restore the hope of this city and all places. Renew our trust that you have a life-giving future in mind for us. *Silence*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

With you, O Lord, there is mercy. Consider well the voice of those who call out from their depths. As they wait for you in their pain and sorrow, give life to their mortal bodies by your healing Spirit. *The congregation may add their own petitions, followed by silence.*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

God, we trust your Son Jesus Christ to be for us resurrection and life. Give to the dead your life, and assure the living with the promise of resurrection. *Silence.*

We call to you, O Lord; **Lord, hear our voice.**

The Celebrant concludes with a collect