

First Reader: **A READING FROM GENESIS**

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

[The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by half verse:**

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People:

Peace be with you, siblings in Christ. In wonder and gratitude, let us pray, saying,

“You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**”

Holy God, by your Spirit you gave birth to your Church: may our many members be the one Body of Christ in this world. Give to each member of your Church the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *Silence*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

Holy God, you have your disciples that ability to speak in the languages of the people: may we also speak about your deeds of power throughout the world, that all may know of your salvation. *Silence*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

Holy God, the earth is full of your creatures: may all who look to you be given food in due season. Open your hand in desolate places and fill the hungry with good things. *The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

Holy God, you poured out your Holy Spirit in your Holy City Jerusalem: pour out your Spirit in our own city. Raise up prophets and dreamers; give us vision. *Silence*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

Holy God, you give the gift of healing by your Spirit: bring healing and wholeness to all those on our hearts and minds this day. You renew the face of the earth; bring renewal to those in need. *The Congregation may add their petitions, followed by silence.*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

Holy God, we pray for our siblings in Christ who were baptized into the one body, who were made to drink of the one Spirit, and who now have died in Christ. May those who have called upon your name, O Lord, be saved forever. *Silence*

You send forth your Spirit: **Come Holy Spirit.**

The Celebrant concludes, adding a Collect.