

First Reader: **A READING FROM GENESIS**

God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by whole verse:**

- 1 How long, O Lord?
will you forget me for ever?
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 **How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day?
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?**
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God;
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 **Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy;
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 **I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me
richly;
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.**

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.