

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

LENT 2 (YEAR A)

## COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Gen 12.1-4*

A reading from the book of 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 121*



*R.* My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (*All repeat*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heav'n and earth. *R.*

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.  
Behold he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. *R.*

The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
neither the moon by night. *R.*

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.  
The Lord shall preserve your going out and  
your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. *R.*

## SECOND READING

*Rom 4.1-5,13-17*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What 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') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Ps 95.3,7,8*

***Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.***

The Lord is a great God, O that today you  
would listen to his voice:

Harden not your hearts.

***Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.***

GOSPEL READING

*Jn 3.1–17*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no-one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No-one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, Lord, wash away our sins, and make us holy in body and soul for the celebration of Easter; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**