



August 7, 2022

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

¹The 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.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But 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.” ⁵He 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.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

- ¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
- ¹³The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
- ¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- ¹⁵He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
- ¹⁶There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- ¹⁷The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
- ¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
- ¹⁹To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.

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

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

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By 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.

⁸By 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. ⁹By 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. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By 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. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All 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, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Do not be afraid, children of Abraham; God, your God, is your shield. So, let us approach our God, saying, "Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us; *we put our trust in you.*" As your Church, we confess that we are strangers seeking a homeland. Do not be ashamed to call yourself our God and make us worthy of that heavenly city you have prepared for us.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Mighty God, you behold all of the people in the world. May all tribes and nations come to understand that our strength is not found in violence or weapons but in the power of your love. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, William our Bishop, Walter, Lisa and Chip, our Priests, The Church in the Province of the West Indies, The Rev. Dcn. Eric Tuttle, Members of our Military, and those on our Parish Cycle of Prayer; Vicki Dahl, Rev. Chip Graves, and Sharon Bowles.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Creator God, you are the one who made the stars of heaven and the sand by the seashore. We bless and honor you for the gifts of creation.

Invite the congregation to add their prayers of thanksgiving, followed by silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Defend the orphans, O God; rescue the oppressed; show compassion to those who feel lonely or isolated. And let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Comfort and heal the sick and the sorrowful. May they know that you are their help and shield. Deliver them from all fear and help them to trust in your righteousness.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. We praise you, God, that those who have died are welcomed home, where they will dwell with all men and women of faith in the city you have prepared for them.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

