

## FIRST READING

## Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18

*A reading from Genesis.*

The 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.’

But Abram said,

‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless,  
and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’

And Abram said,

‘You have given me no offspring,  
and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’

But 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.’

He brought him outside and said,

‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’

Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’

And he believed the LORD;

and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him,

‘I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans,  
to give you this land to possess.’

But he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’

He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old,  
a female goat three years old, a ram three years old,  
a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’

He brought him all these and cut them in two,  
laying each half over against the other;

but he did not cut the birds in two.

And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses,  
Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram,  
and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark,  
a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying,

‘To your descendants I give this land,

from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.’

*This is the Word of The Lord.*

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

Brothers and sisters,  
join in imitating me,  
and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.  
For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ;  
I have often told you of them,  
and now I tell you, even with tears.  
Their end is destruction;  
their god is the belly;  
and their glory is in their shame;  
their minds are set on earthly things.  
But our citizenship is in heaven,  
and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will transform the body of our humiliation  
that it may be conformed to the body of His glory,  
by the power that also enables Him  
to make all things subject to Himself.  
Therefore, my brothers and sisters  
(whom I love and long for, my joy and crown)  
stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*This is the Word of The Lord.*

## GOSPEL

## Luke 13.31–35

*The Holy Gospel is written in the 13th. chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the 31st. verse... ..Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus,

‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’

He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me,

“Listen, I am casting out demons  
and performing cures today and tomorrow,  
and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day  
I must be on my way,

because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.”

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

the city that kills the prophets  
and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together  
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,

and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you.

And I tell you,

you will not see me until the time comes when you say,

“Blessèd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.””

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*