

FIRST READING Genesis 17.1–7,15–16

A reading from Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him,
"I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
And I will make my covenant between me and you,
and will make you exceedingly numerous."
Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
"As for me, this is my covenant with you:
You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
No longer shall your name be Abram,
but your name shall be Abraham;
for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
I will make you exceedingly fruitful;
and I will make nations of you,
and kings shall come from you.
I will establish my covenant between me and you,
and your offspring after you throughout their generations,
for an everlasting covenant,
to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
God said to Abraham,
"As for Sarai, your wife,
you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
I will bless her,
and, moreover, I will give you a son by her.
I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations;
kings of peoples shall come from her."

For the Word of the LORD

SECOND READING **Romans 11.13–24.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles.

Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them.

For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be, but life from the dead!

If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy;

and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree,

do not boast over the branches.

If you do boast, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you.

You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith.

So do not become proud, but stand in awe.

For, if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you.

Note, then, the kindness and the severity of God:

severity toward those who have fallen,
but God's kindness toward you,
provided you continue in his kindness;
otherwise you also will be cut off.

And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

For if you have been cut from what is, by nature, a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

For the Word of the LORD