

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

A reading from Genesis.

After these things 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."² 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?"³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."⁴ 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."⁵ He 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."⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."¹⁰ 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.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ 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."

PSALM: Psalm 27:1-4, 11-14

*Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses.
Assembly sings refrain at R.*



In the day of trou - ble, God will give me shel - ter.

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then¹ shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I¹ be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to de-¹vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum-¹ble and fall.

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- ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart¹ will not fear.
 Though war rise up against me, my trust will¹ not be shaken.
- ⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one¹ thing I seek;
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my
 life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek
 God¹ in the temple. **R**
- ¹¹Teach me your¹ way, O LORD;
 lead me on a level path, because of¹ my oppressors.
- ¹²Subject me not to the will¹ of my foes,
 for they rise up against me, false witnesses¹ breathing
 violence.
- ¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness¹ of the LORD
 in the land¹ of the living!
- ¹⁴Wait for the LORD¹ and be strong.
 Take heart and wait¹ for the LORD! **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31–35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He 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. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

³⁴Jerusalem, 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! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is your country of citizenship? What does it mean to be a citizen?
- The apostle Paul says that Christians are 'citizens of heaven'. What does this mean?
- How do we show others that we are citizens of heaven?

Devotional Practices:

To distinguish Lent from "ordinary" time, call the household to meals in a new way. Have household members take turns in ringing a small bell as a call to gather for meals. Light a candle and have a few moments of silence before you say grace and begin to eat.

Service:

Commit as a household this week to each do one "daily deed" in service to one another. Look around and think about small deeds that could be done to show love and care to one another. Is there laundry to sort or are there dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Put up a list of the "daily deed" each person commits to carry out for each day.

Rituals and Traditions:

During Lent most Christian churches refrain from singing or responding with "Alleluia" (a Hebrew word meaning 'praise to God'). This is a way to highlight the serious and reflective nature of the Lenten season.

Symbolise the silencing of "Alleluia" at home by making a banner with the word on it, rolling it up and putting it away in a cupboard until Easter Sunday. On Easter morning bring out the banner and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with your spoken or sung "Alleluia"s.

Parent Toolbox

Your home observance of Lent can be enhanced by the use of symbols. Consider using each of these four symbols in the coming weeks.

A Crucifix Do you have a crucifix in your home? If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place. Even a child's drawing of Jesus' death for us can be a powerful, stirring reminder of God's love. **Bowl of Water** A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can be an ongoing reminder of baptism in our lives. Use the bowl to mark one another with the sign of the cross during Lent. **Bowl of Sand** A bowl of sand can remind us of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the desert, and our own call to resist temptation in following Christ. **A Bible** Lent is a time to renew our focus on God's Word. The prominent placement of a Bible in our home can represent for us our desire for God's Word in our lives. Use the Bible to read one or more verses for your household each day.



Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	A hen gathering her brood
Monday	Zechariah 8:1-8,14-23	The Lord is jealous for Zion
Tuesday	Hosea 11:1-11	God's love for Israel
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-14	The Lord will rebuild Israel
Thursday	Romans 11:25-32	All Israel will be saved
Friday	Revelation 21:1-14,22-27	The new Jerusalem
Saturday	Psalms 105:1-11,37-45	God remembers his covenant
Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree

Scripture Verse for the Week:

Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord.
- Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord, I am your child. Please gather me to yourself and keep me safe. Amen. (Luke 13:34)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord, please help me to look beyond earthly things today. Focus me on the bigger and greater things you have in mind. Amen. (Philippians 3:18-21)

A Blessing to Share:

May God hold you in his loving arms. May he hear your prayers for help and answer you with kindness. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

The Lord is our light and our salvation: **Whom shall we fear?** (Psalm 27:1)

Mealtime Prayer:

All things below, all things above, are gifts of your amazing love. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.



SCRIPTURE