

## FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20–32

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

## PSALM: Psalm 138

*The psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse. Assembly sings verses in bold print.*

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with **l** my whole heart;  
before the gods I will **l** sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your  
steadfast l love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a- l bove all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you **l** answered me;  
you increased my **l** strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise l you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words l of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways **l** of the LORD,  
that great is the glory **l** of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares l for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty l from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you **l** keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right **l** hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your pur- l pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works l of your hands.**

## SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

## GOSPEL: Luke 11:1–13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**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 11:1-13	Jesus teaches about prayer
Monday	Luke 18:1-8	A parable about prayer
Tuesday	Luke 18:9-14	Parable about two men praying
Wednesday	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Hannah prays to the Lord
Thursday	1 Kings 18:16-46	Elijah prays to the Lord
Friday	2 Kings 19:9-20,32-36	Hezekiah prays to the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 32:6-11	Let all the godly pray
Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool

**Scripture Verses for the Week:**

"So here is what I say to you. Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks will receive. He who searches will find. And the door will be opened to the one who knocks." – Luke 11:9-11 (NIRV)

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

**Prayer for this Week:**

Lord Jesus, teach me to pray. Amen. (Luke 11:1)

**For Throughout the Day:**

Father in heaven, please give your Holy Spirit to me this day.  
Amen. (Luke 11:13)

**A Blessing to Share:**

*May God watch over you and save you from trouble. May all the good plans God has for you come to be. Amen. (Psalm 138:6-8)*

**Mealtime Refrain:**

We have received Christ Jesus as our Lord:  
**Let us keep on following him.** (Colossians 2:6)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

*Thank you, God, for this our food, for life and health and every good. May we - more blessed than we deserve - live less for self and more to serve. Amen.*



**Faith Talk:**

- Whom do you find it easy to talk to? Why?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Why?
- When Jesus' disciples wanted to learn how to pray, Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). What is your favorite part of the prayer? What part do you find it hardest to pray or to understand?

**Devotional Practices:**

In your home devotion times this week, focus on the different parts of the Lord's Prayer in turn: (1) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (2) Your kingdom come. (3) Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (4) Give us today our daily bread. (5) Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. (6) Lead us not into temptation. (7) But deliver us from evil. Talk together about what each part means and how it applies to you (e.g. "How do we keep God's name holy?"; "How do we help God's kingdom to come?"; "How can we show appreciation for the daily gifts God give us?"). If you have a young child in your home, take this opportunity to help them memorize the prayer.

**Service:**

One way of the best ways we can serve others is by bringing their needs before God in prayer. What needs do you see in the lives of others around you? Make a point of praying for 2-3 people in particular this week. Send them a card to let them know that they have been in your prayers (sign it as a household).

**Rituals and Traditions:**

Prayer is a practice we need to learn, both as individuals and as households (even Jesus' disciples needed to learn how to pray!). What part does prayer play in your home life? Consider building these different forms of prayer into your home routine:

Praying for One Another: Pray for household members personally on special occasions, such as birthdays. In addition, try instituting times during the week when you specifically pray for one another.

Praying for Others Include a time each week to pray for persons outside your household, and for the needs of the wider world.

Mealtime Prayers Make mealtime graces a part of your daily life. Use the weekly mealtime resources provided in *Taking Faith Home*.

Prayers of Thanksgiving Make a habit of offering thanks to God often. Give thanks together when you return safely from a trip, when good news is received, and when milestones are reached. Cultivate an attitude of thankfulness.