

A reading from Genesis chapter 18 beginning at verse 1. [18.1-15]

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre,
as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

²He looked up and saw three men standing near him.

When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

³He said,

‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant.

⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves,
and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’

So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’

⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said,

‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’

⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good,
and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.

⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them;
and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’

And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’

¹⁰Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’

And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age;

it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’

¹³The LORD said to Abraham,

‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?”

¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?

At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ ¹

⁵But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid.

He said,

‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-2,11-18

1. I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;

2. **Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.**

11. How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?

12. **I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

13. I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.

14. **Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.**

15. O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.

16. **I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

17. I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
18. **In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

**Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 5 beginning at verse 1. [5.1-11]

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—
though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 9 beginning at verse 35. [9.35-10.8]
*Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues,
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.
³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,
because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
³⁷Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'
10.1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits,
to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.
²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew;
James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector;
James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.
5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:
'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,
⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."
⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.
You received without payment; give without payment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.