

God's Word for this Week

Sunday 28th February 2021



The Lenten Collect

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The First Reading

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

17 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. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ 'As for me, this is my covenant with*



you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram,* but your name shall be Abraham;* for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I 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.

15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I 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.'

It was miracle after miracle for Abraham during his journey with God and yet every move was dependant on a level of faith and connection with the Divine that enabled

Abraham to trust completely. Whether it was the birth of a son when he and his wife Sarah were elderly or the prospect of a new land, Abraham took God at his word and this level of faith brought about great things. This is confirmed by the words of the Letter to the Romans below.

Pray Today:

Heavenly Father, above all other things, confirm and strengthen our trust in you!

The Epistle Reading

A reading from the
Letter to the Romans, Chapter 4

Abraham believed when he stood in the presence of the God who gives life to all people and calls into existence things that don't even exist. When there was nothing left to hope for, Abraham still hoped and believed. As a result, he became a father of many nations, as he had been told: "That is how many descendants you will have." Abraham didn't weaken. Through faith he regarded the facts: His body was already as good as dead now that he was about a hundred years old, and Sarah was unable to have children. He didn't doubt God's promise out of a lack of faith.

Instead, giving honor to God \perp for the promise \perp , he became strong because of faith and was absolutely confident that God would do what he

promised. That is why Abraham's faith was regarded as the basis of his approval by God.

But the words concerning Abraham's faith were written not only for him but also for us – each of us who believe in the one who brought Jesus, our Lord, back to life.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 9: 2-9



2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by



themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one ^{*}on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, ^{*}one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; ^{*}listen to him!'

⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



Jesus chose to take just three close friends with him and led them on an upward climb to a new level of understanding – a higher ground, both physically and metaphorically. The true essence of the Christ is revealed to those who are prepared to follow, even in rough terrain!

Pray Today

Dear Father,

We thank You for the fulfilment of Your Word; The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and they beheld His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. We give you thanks that the true essence of the Christ was witnessed here on earth.

May our lives bear witness to his eternal presence among us.

Prepare us for a journey of discovery with you and, in all the changing moments of our lives, lead us upwards to a higher plain and deeper understanding of you.

Amen.