

## Sunday's Readings

### FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

#### A reading from the Book of Genesis

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision saying:

“Fear not, Abram!  
I am your shield;  
I will make your reward very great.”

But Abram said,

“O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be,  
if I keep on being childless  
and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?”

Abram continued,

“See, you have given me no offspring,  
and so one of my servants will be my heir.”

Then the word of the LORD came to him:

“No, that one shall not be your heir;  
your own issue shall be your heir.”

The Lord took Abram outside and said:

“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.  
Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”

Abram put his faith in the LORD,

who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would;

he did for her as he had promised.

Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age,

at the set time that God had stated.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his

whom Sarah bore him.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;  
make known among the nations his deeds.  
Sing to him, sing his praise,  
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Glory in his holy name;  
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!  
Look to the LORD in his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,  
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!  
He, the LORD, is our God;  
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

He remembers forever his covenant  
which he made binding for a thousand generations  
which he entered into with Abraham  
and by his oath to Isaac.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

## SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

*Family life in the Lord.*

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

**B**rothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another;  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,  
that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,  
the peace into which you were also called in one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,  
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs  
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1:38

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.*



### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.*

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna,  
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.  
She was advanced in years,  
having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,  
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.  
She never left the temple,  
but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.  
And coming forward at that very time,  
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child  
to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions  
of the law of the Lord,  
they returned to Galilee,  
to their own town of Nazareth.  
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favour of God was upon him.

