

Insert for Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Evening Prayer

for

THE SENT: God's Church Deployed

First Reading: GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

I 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. As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I 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."

*Silence for meditation*

One The Light shines in the darkness ...

All ...and the darkness has not overcome it.

Psalm 22:22-30

A SELECTION FROM PSALM 22.

Praise the Lord, you that fear God; stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither turns away from them; when they cry to the Lord, they are heard. My praise is of God in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: "May your heart live for ever!" All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before God. For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before God. My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has done.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading: ROMANS 4:13-25

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

All: Thanks be to God

Ash Wednesday Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Weekly Collect

Faithful God, may we set our minds and wills to yours, and take up our cross, following Christ with confidence for the glory you reveal in him; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.