

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS [15:1-12, 17-18]

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Elie'zer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, thou hast given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chalde'ans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." And he brought him all these, cut them in two, and laid each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram; and lo, a dread and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphra'tes."

PSALM 27:10-18

- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;*
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."*
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me,*
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away;*
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me,*
the LORD will sustain me.

- 15 Show me your way, O LORD;*
 lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,*
 for false witnesses have risen up against me,
 and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
 in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;
 be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;*
 wait patiently for the LORD.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

[3:17-4:1]

Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Tract: Seek good, and not evil, that you may live;*
 and the God of hosts will be with you.



THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE [13:31-35]

Some Pharisees came, and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"