

## Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

---

### **COLLECT: (*Remain Standing*)**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Genesis 26:1-33 (*Please be seated*)**

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar, to King Abimelech of the Philistines. The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; settle in the land that I shall show you. Reside in this land as an alien, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfil the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and will give to your offspring all these lands; and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.'

So Isaac settled in Gerar. When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, 'She is my sister'; for he was afraid to say, 'My wife,' thinking, 'or else the men of the place might kill me for the sake of Rebekah, because she is attractive in appearance.' When Isaac had been there a long time, King Abimelech of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw him fondling his wife Rebekah. So Abimelech called for Isaac, and said, 'So she is your wife! Why then did you say, "She is my sister"?' Isaac said to him, 'Because I thought I might die because of her.' Abimelech said, 'What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.' So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, 'Whoever touches this man or his wife shall be put to death.'

Isaac sowed seed in that land, and in the same year reaped a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, and the man became rich; he prospered more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds, and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him. (Now the Philistines had stopped up and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham.) And Abimelech said to Isaac, 'Go away from us; you have become too powerful for us.'

So Isaac departed from there and camped in the valley of Gerar and settled there. Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham; for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the names that his father had given them. But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herders of Gerar quarrelled with Isaac's herders, saying, 'The water is ours.' So he called the well Esek, because they contended with him. Then they dug another well, and they quarrelled over that one also; so he called it Sitnah. He moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he called it Rehoboth, saying, 'Now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.' *(continued)*

From there he went up to Beer-sheba. And that very night the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am the God of your father Abraham; do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you and make your offspring numerous for my servant Abraham's sake.' So he built an altar there, called on the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army. Isaac said to them, 'Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?' They said, 'We see plainly that the Lord has been with you; so we say, let there be an oath between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you so that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord.' So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths; and Isaac set them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug, and said to him, 'We have found water!' He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beer-sheba to this day.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

## Psalm

Reader: Let us pray together the words of **Psalm 78**.

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob  
and established a law for Israel, \*  
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,  
and the children yet unborn; \*  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, \*  
and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments;

8 And not be like their forefathers,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation, \*  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The people of Ephraim, armed with the bow, \*  
turned back in the day of battle;

10 They did not keep the covenant of God, \*  
and refused to walk in his law;

11 They forgot what he had done, \*  
and the wonders he had shown them.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

17 But they went on sinning against him, \*  
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.

18 They tested God in their hearts, \*  
demanding food for their craving.

19 They railed against God and said, \*  
"Can God set a table in the wilderness?"

20 True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out,  
and the gullies overflowed; \*  
but is he able to give bread  
or to provide meat for his people?"

21 When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; \*  
a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
and his anger mounted against Israel;

22 For they had no faith in God, \*  
nor did they put their trust in his saving power.

23 So he commanded the clouds above \*  
and opened the doors of heaven.

24 He rained down manna upon them to eat \*  
and gave them grain from heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; \*  
he provided for them food enough.

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens \*  
and led out the south wind by his might.

27 He rained down flesh upon them like dust \*  
and wingèd birds like the sand of the sea.

28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp \*  
and round about their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled, \*  
for he gave them what they craved.

30 But they did not stop their craving, \*  
though the food was still in their mouths.

31 So God's anger mounted against them; \*  
he slew their strongest men  
and laid low the youth of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they went on sinning \*  
and had no faith in his wonderful works. *(Continue)*

33 So he brought their days to an end like a breath \*  
and their years in sudden terror.

34 Whenever he slew them, they would seek him, \*  
and repent, and diligently search for God.

35 They would remember that God was their rock, \*  
and the Most High God their redeemer.

36 But they flattered him with their mouths \*  
and lied to him with their tongues.

37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him, \*  
and they were not faithful to his covenant.

38 But he was so merciful that he forgave their sins  
and did not destroy them; \*  
many times he held back his anger  
and did not permit his wrath to be roused.

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh, \*  
a breath that goes forth and does not return.

## Hebrews 13:17-25 *(Please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the book of Hebrews.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honourably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon.

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy send you greetings. Grace be with all of you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# GOSPEL

## **John 7:53-8:11** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[[Then each of them went home, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.']]

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**