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## 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, AUGUST 7, 2022

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### Prayer of the Day

Leader: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Cong.: Amen.**

### The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## **The Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## **The Gospel: Luke 12:32-40**

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

## **Prayers of the People**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Leader: Faithful God, encourage your church to new ventures of faith and trust in you alone, in our congregations, ministries, conversations, and partnerships. Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Creating God, the abundance of your world fills us with awe and delight. Call us daily to be vigilant and responsible stewards of all you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Merciful God, calm the things in us that lead to wars, prejudice, and injustice. Equip governments, leaders, and peacemakers to be models of cooperation and reconciliation among all people. Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Gracious God, comfort all who long for relief from circumstances of grief, and grant peace to all who suffer from any illness of body, mind, or spirit. Especially we ask your presence with all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P A U S E) Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Steadfast God, we pray your presence with us in the transitions of life that bring anxiety and beg you to sustain us all with your never-ending love. Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Leader: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all the saints who now rest upon the unfailing treasure of your mercy in heaven. Abide with us always and until the day when we will be reunited with those who have come home to your love before us. Hear us, O God.

**Cong.: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Cong.: Amen.**