

## **Scriptures March 16, 2025**

### **First Reading**

#### **Genesis 15:1-12 NRSV**

##### **God's Covenant with Abram**

**15** 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.' **2** 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>[a]</sup> **3** And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' **4** 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.' **5** He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' **6** And he believed the LORD; and the LORD<sup>[b]</sup> reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**7** Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' **8** But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' **9** He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' **10** He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

#### **Genesis 15:17-18 NRSV**

**17** When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** 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 Euphrates,

## Second Reading

### Luke 13:31-35 NRSV

#### The Lament over Jerusalem

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup> He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me,<sup>[a]</sup> "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when<sup>[b]</sup> you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'