

# 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

*O.T. Lesson and Psalm:* **Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)**

## **The Three Visitors**

**18:1** The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. **2** Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

**3** He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

**4** Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. **5** Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

**6** So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

**7** Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. **8** He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

**9** "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

**10** Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

**11** Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

**13** Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' **14** Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

**15** Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

## **The Birth of Isaac**

**21:1** Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah(A) as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. **4** When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

**6** Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” **7** And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

**1**

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.

**2**

Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.

**12**

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his goodness to me?

**13**

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.

**14**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

**15**

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.

**16**

Truly I am your servant, Lord;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
you have freed me from my chains.

**17**

I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the Lord.

**18**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,

**19**

in the courts of the house of the Lord—  
in your midst, Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord.

### **or Exodus 19:2-8a**

**2** After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

**3** Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: **4** ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now if you obey me fully and keep my

covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **6** you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

**7** So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. **8a** The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.”

## **Psalm 100**

**A psalm. For giving grateful praise.**

**1**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**2**

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

**3**

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**4**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

**5**

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

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*Epistle Lesson:* **Romans 5:1-8**

### **Peace and Hope**

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Gospel reading:* **Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)**

### **The Workers Are Few**

**9:35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

**36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

### **Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**10:1** Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

**2** These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; **3** Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**5** These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **6** Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

**7** As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

**9** "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— **10** no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.

**11** Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. **12** As you enter the home, give it your greeting. **13** If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.

**14** If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. **15** Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

**16** "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. **17** Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. **18** On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. **19** But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, **20** for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**21** "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. **22** You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **23** When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.