

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY**  
**March 13, 2022**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

1 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?" 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 toward 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 reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1**, paraphrase by Rev. N. Nettleton

My friends, follow my lead. Keep your eyes on those who are on the same track as us and are living out what we've taught you. There are plenty of people who push a different line. I know you've often heard me going on about this, but you can tell by the way they live that they are dead-set against Christ — against the idea that the way of the cross might be God's way. It brings tears to my eyes every time I bring this up, but it has to be said. These people are living on borrowed time — racing headlong towards their own destruction. They boast about the depths of degradation they have wallowed in. If their stomach rumbles they drop everything to do its bidding, as though it were a god. They never give a thought to anything beyond the mundane concerns of their own little world. Our allegiance is to a quite different world — heaven itself — a world that will come to rescue and rule this world in the person of Jesus Christ. We are eagerly looking forward to his arrival, because he has the power to bring absolutely everything back under control. We can hardly wait for him to use that power on us because when he does, our human desires, which have so often let us down, will be brought up to the standard of his own. So hang in there, friends. I love you greatly. You always make me so happy and proud, and I can't wait to see you again. Whatever you do, dig your heels in and don't let anyone pull you off God's track.

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 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! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"