

Saint George and Saint James
Anglican Parish in the Borough of Queenscliffe

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday 17th March, 2019

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

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 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 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. 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,

Psalm 27 (APBA p. 246)

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?:

the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
come upon me to devour me:
they shall stumble and fall.

³ If an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid:
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.

⁴ One thing I have asked from the Lord,
which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord:
and to seek his will in his temple.

⁶ For he will hide me under his shelter
in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock.

⁷ And now he will lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me.

⁸ And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary
with exultation:

I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.

⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:
have mercy upon me and answer me.

¹⁰ My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':
your face, Lord, I will seek.

¹¹ Do not hide your face from me:
or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

¹² For you have been my helper:
do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹³ Though my father and my mother forsake me:
the Lord will take me up.

¹⁴ Teach me your way, O Lord:
and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.

¹⁵ Do not give me over to the will of my enemies:
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and those who breathe out violence.

¹⁶ But I believe that I shall surely see
the goodness of the Lord:
in the land of the living.

¹⁷ O wait for the Lord;
stand firm and he will strengthen your heart:
and wait, I say, for the Lord.

Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

3 ¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and

their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.⁴ ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13.1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."