

July 24, 2022

## A reading from Genesis

## All Services

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

**The word of the Lord.**

July 24, 2022

READING: Psalm 138

Early Service Only

**“We will read the Psalm responsively.”**

**L: <sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;**

C: <sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

**L: <sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.**

C: <sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

**L: <sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.**

C: <sup>6</sup>For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

**L: <sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.**

C: <sup>8</sup>The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.