

Readings: SS. John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Fear not, Abram!
I am your shield;
I will make your reward very great.”

But Abram said,

“O Lord God, what good will your gifts be,
if I keep on being childless
and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?”

Abram continued,

“See, you have given me no offspring,
and so one of my servants will be my heir.”

Then the word of the Lord came to him:

“No, that one shall not be your heir;
your own issue shall be your heir.”

He took him outside and said:

“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.

Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”

Abram put his faith in the Lord,

who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him,

“I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans
to give you this land as a possession.”

“O Lord God,” he asked,

“how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

He answered him,

“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat,
a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

Abram brought him all these, split them in two,

and placed each half opposite the other;
but the birds he did not cut up.

Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses,

but Abram stayed with them.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram,

and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark,

there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch,
which passed between those pieces.

It was on that occasion that the Lord made a covenant with Abram,

saying: “To your descendants I give this land,
from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River the Euphrates.”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9

R./ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. or: Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise,
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

R./ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. or: Alleluia.

Glory in his holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!

Look to the Lord in his strength;
seek to serve him constantly.

R./ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. or: Alleluia.

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He, the Lord, is our God;
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

R./ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. or: Alleluia.

He remembers forever his covenant
which he made binding for a thousand generations—
Which he entered into with Abraham
and by his oath to Isaac.

R./ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. or: Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing,
but underneath are ravenous wolves.

By their fruits you will know them.

Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Just so, every good tree bears good fruit,
and a rotten tree bears bad fruit.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit,
nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit.

Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down
and thrown into the fire.

So by their fruits you will know them.”

