

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS [18:1-15 ]**

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PSALM 57** *Said by half verse*

- <sup>1</sup> Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful,  
for I have taken refuge in you; \*  
in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge  
until this time of trouble has gone by.
- <sup>2</sup> I will call upon the Most High God, \*  
the God who maintains my cause.
- <sup>3</sup> He will send from heaven and save me;  
he will confound those who trample upon me; \*  
God will send forth his love and his faithfulness.
- <sup>4</sup> I lie in the midst of lions that devour the people; \*  
their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongue a sharp sword.
- <sup>5</sup> They have laid a net for my feet, and I am bowed low; \*  
they have dug a pit before me, but have fallen into it themselves.
- <sup>6</sup> Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, \*  
and your glory over all the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; \*  
I will sing and make melody.
- <sup>8</sup> Wake up, my spirit; awake, lute and harp; \*  
I myself will waken the dawn.
- <sup>9</sup> I will confess you among the peoples, O LORD; \*  
I will sing praise to you among the nations.
- <sup>10</sup> For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- <sup>11</sup> Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, \*  
and your glory over all the earth.