As God’s children, we are all invited to ask God for whatever we need, from our daily bread to forgiveness for our trespasses. We are reminded of this every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer, but today’s readings speak to this as well. Gathered here today to listen to God’s word and share in the Eucharist, let us be consoled in the knowledge that there is no limit to the generosity of a God who willingly sent the Son to suffer and die for us.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 104
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:
Greeting:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. Blessed be God forever.

Penitential Rite: p.6
My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Opening Prayer:
O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word:
First Reading p. 94
A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days, the LORD said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to
find out." While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?" The LORD replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham spoke up again: "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?" He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there." But Abraham persisted, saying "What if only forty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty." Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there." Still Abraham went on, "Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?" The LORD answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty." But he still persisted: "Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?" He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it." When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the LORD's power shall be known to his servants.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8

R/. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.
R/. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name. R/.

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called you answered me; you built up strength within me. R/.

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me; against the anger of my enemies you raise your hand. R/.

Your right hand saves me. The LORD will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. R/.

Second Reading:

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 2:12-14

Brothers and sisters: You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke


Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to
pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

• Though all-knowing, once again the LORD “must go down and see” before pronouncing judgment (Genesis 18:21). As in the garden of Eden or at Babel, God comes to the scene to determine the sinfulness of the people. Then we learn how willing God is to exercise mercy. By the time this was written, Sodom and Gomorrah were well known as cities that were suddenly and completely destroyed in a natural event precipitated by God’s wrath. Tradition varied as to the nature of the sinfulness that incurred God’s punishment, but this account does not concentrate on the sin . . . or on the destruction. Its focus is God’s mercy. God’s mercy is so generous that if even a handful of innocent people lived there, entire cities of thousands would have been spared.

• Last Sunday we heard readings that extolled the value of hospitality. Abraham ran out of his tent to insist that three traveling strangers stop to rest and eat. Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus into their home and their lives. Hospitality was rewarded in both cases. On the other hand, the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah were known for their arrogance and hostility toward strangers and travelers. Centuries later, Ezekiel wrote that they had been “proud, sated with food, complacent in their prosperity, and they gave no help to the poor and needy” (Ezekiel 16:49). Sodom and Gomorrah were large cities, and even today large cities often develop a reputation for inhospitality. Abraham argued in hopes that at least a few people could be found who were generous to outsiders.

• Abraham’s conversation with God doesn’t exactly sound like a prayer, but it is in fact a prayer of petition, a persistent plea for God’s mercy. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, also encouraging them to make a prayer of petition, pleading for food each day and for mercy for their sins. Let us in turn be generous with our belongings and with our forgiveness.

Question of the Week
When have I failed to be generous with what I have or been inhospitable to those I meet? What would lead me to be generous and hospitable?

Prayer of the Faithful:
“Ask and you will receive,” Jesus assures us in today’s Gospel, and so as children of God we bring our needs before our Father in heaven.

• For the Church, that we may imitate God’s generosity as we assist all those in need, materially and spiritually, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For the leaders of our nation, that they may work toward the day when no one will be without their daily bread, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
• For the millions of malnourished people around the world, that a new day will soon dawn when they have plenty to eat and are freed from the anxiety that comes from being unable to feed themselves or their families, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For those who cannot forgive themselves and feel that they cannot be forgiven at all, that they may feel remorse for the wrong they have done and realize that they can always find forgiveness in our merciful God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For grandparents and the elderly, that they may be loved and cared for, and that the wealth of their knowledge and experience may be valued by younger generations, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• That our faith community may never hesitate to open the door for all who knock, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, when we call for help we know that you will answer. Hear our cries for help today and answer us according to your divine will through your Son, our Lord, who taught us all to pray.

**Communion Rite**

*The Lord's Prayer: p. 136*

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**Rite of Peace:**

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ’s presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**Communion:**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The body of Christ. **Amen.**
Prayer after Communion:
We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Rite:
Final Blessing:
May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ! Thanks be to God.