

**1. Read** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence.

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**How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

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Link to Liturgy**



[1] Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pg. 6  
[2] Hardon, The Catholic Catechism, pg. 206  
[3] Heb. 11:8; cf. Gen. 12:1-4  
[4] CCC 145 [5] Heb. 11:1 [6] CCC 633  
[7] Gal. 3:16 [8] CCC 705

# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? Luke 16:19-31** — Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 16:19-31 – Roman Missal**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: “There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.’ Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.’ He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.’”

## **Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

From the beginning of a letter to the Philippians by Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr

*It is by grace that you are saved*

From Polycarp and his fellow presbyters to the pilgrim church of God at Philippi: May you have mercy and peace in abundance from Almighty God and Jesus Christ our Savior. I rejoice with you greatly in the Lord Jesus Christ because you have assumed the pattern of true love and have rightly helped on their way those who were in chains. Such chains are becoming to the faithful; they are the rich crown of the chosen ones of our Lord and God. I am glad, too, that your deep-rooted faith, proclaimed of old, still abides and continues to bear fruit in the life-giving power of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, for our sins, did not refuse to go down to death, and *God raised him up after destroying the pains of hell. With a glorious joy that no words can express you believe in Christ without seeing him.* This is the joy in which many wish to share *knowing*

*that it is by grace that you are saved and not by works, for so God has willed through Jesus Christ. So prepare yourselves for the struggle, serve the Lord in fear and truth. Put aside empty talk and popular errors; your faith must be in him who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave him a share in his own glory and a seat at his right hand. To him everything was made subject in heaven and on earth; all things obey him, who will come as judge of the living and the dead. All who refuse to believe in him must answer to God for the blood of his Son. He who raised him from the dead will raise us too if we do his will and keep his commandments, loving what he loved, refraining from all wrongdoing, fraud, avarice, malice and slander. We must abstain from false witness, not returning evil for evil, nor curse for curse, nor blow for blow, nor denunciation for denunciation. Always remember the words of the Lord, who taught: Do not judge and you will not be judged; forgive and you will be forgiven; be merciful and you will find mercy; the amount you measure out to others will be the amount measured out to you. Blessed are the poor and those who suffer persecution, for theirs is the kingdom of God.*

### **Abraham – Lesson and Discussion**

*“Father Abraham, have pity on me.”*

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus uses a parable in which one of the main characters is a living person, Abraham. Abraham is an essential piece to salvation history, and he is one of the most important figures in the Church.

**Who was Abraham?** Abraham was “Born in the twentieth or nineteenth century B.C., in Ur of the Chaldeans on the Euphrates River. His father, Terah, named him Abram. The family migrated to Haran, where Terah died (Genesis 11: 26-31). At God’s behest, Abram, his wife, Sarah, his nephew, Lot, and all their followers moved on to Canaan (Genesis 12:4). When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God made a covenant with him, changing his name to Abraham and promising to make him the ‘father of a multitude of nations...[Genesis 17:1-5] I will make you into nations and your issue shall be kings...I will give to you and your descendants the land you are living in, the whole land of Canaan, to own in perpetuity, and I will be your God’ (Genesis 17:5-8). Hence he has been called the founder of the Hebrew people. Abraham’s dedication to the will of God was tested when he was told to take his son, Isaac, to the land of Moriah (which later became the site of the Jerusalem temple) and sacrifice his son as a burnt offering. He obeyed without hesitation, but Isaac was spared at the last moment (Genesis 22). In his final days Abraham arranged to have his son marry Rebekah, one of his kinfolk (Genesis 24), and left Isaac all his possessions before he died at the age of one hundred seventy-five (Genesis 25).”[1]

**Why is Abraham known as “Our father in faith”?** The origins of the Church can be traced back to Abraham. “Whatever may be said about the foreshadowing of the Church before the call of Abraham, the covenant that God made with the patriarch marked the origin of that Chosen People to whom the Church of Christ would always refer as its spiritual ancestor. Yahweh chose Israel as his very own, on whom he promised to lavish extraordinary blessings provided they remained faithful to him. Step by step, he taught and prepared the children of Abraham by

sending them prophets to reveal himself and the decrees of his will, in order to make them holy.”[2] Abraham is our father in faith because he was the first person to show perfect faith in God. He was the first person to form a covenant with God. “By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go.”[3] “By faith, he lived as a stranger and pilgrim in the promised land. By faith, Sarah was given to conceive the son of the promise. And by faith Abraham offered his only son in sacrifice.”[4] Thus, Abraham fulfills what it means to have faith, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”[5].

**Why did God change Abram’s name to Abraham?** Names have great meaning. The name Abram means “great father”. At the time God changes Abram’s name Abram had no children. Abraham means “father of many (nations)”. During the time of Abraham a person’s name was similar to a title, it gave that person their identity. Imagine having the name “great father” but having no children. It is ironic that the man that is called “great father” was not a father. More ironic is the fact that when right before Abram turns 100, he gets the name Abraham “father of many”! Despite not having any children at that time, Abraham had great faith in God, and because of his faith he was blessed with many children.

**Why does Lazarus go to Abraham’s bosom?** Abraham being the father of all who believe in God takes all his children and care for them. Abraham is so faithful and close to God that he does not neglect all of those who died in God’s grace. Jesus teaches in today’s parable that people like Lazarus end up in a place for the dead awaiting the coming of Jesus. These are the very people that Jesus descends to save after His death on the cross. “Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him.”[6]

**What is the connection between Jesus and Abraham?** God promised Abraham’s descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. It was also promised that from Abraham’s lineage the whole world would be blessed. Jesus Christ is *the* descendant to fulfill this promise. “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, ‘And to descendants,’ as referring to many, but as referring to one, ‘And to your descendant,’ who is Christ”[7]. “The promise made to Abraham inaugurates the economy of salvation, at the culmination of which the Son himself will assume that ‘image’ and restore it in the Father’s ‘likeness’ by giving it again its Glory, the Spirit who is ‘the giver of life’.”[8] Abraham’s faith spared his son Isaac from being killed. However, God the Father would have His only begotten Son handed over and killed, so that His adopted sons would have life. . . Jesus completes the sacrifice that God had instructed Abraham to start; Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac and the Sacrifice of Christ. Isaac was Abraham’s one and only son (from his true wife Sarah). Jesus is the one and only Son of God. Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice. Jesus carried the wood of the Cross, the instrument of His death. Abraham took Isaac to Mount Moriah. Christ was crucified on Calvary or Golgotha, which is in the region, very close to Mount Moriah. The two sacrifices are over 2000 years apart but geographically are within walking distance from each other.