

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**July 28, 2019**  
**The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Genesis 18:20-32 † Colossians 2:12-14 † Luke 11:1-13**



**Reflection by: Sr. Patricia Wormann O.P.**

Jesus invites us to see a new way of knowing God. He says to call God “Abba,” which means daddy, mommy, someone we can run to and know that he or she will be there for us. It is an intimate name. In our readings today, we see that intimacy in both Abraham’s relationship as well as Jesus’ relationship with God. Prayer for Jesus is not formal or automatic words but relationship. The one we speak with is one we know and love and who loves us.

Abraham haggles with God. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was that of a lack of hospitality to visitors and strangers. Abraham, who had just shared with the three strangers at his home, asks God to think repeatedly on what he is about to do. Why? Because the God he knows is loving and merciful. In our gospel, we hear Luke’s version of the Our Father. Different and less formal than that of Matthew. Jesus continues in demonstrating to his followers that God is not “out to get us.” God wishes to give us what we need as a loving “Abba.” Persistence follows, and just as I rise to feed my cat whose cries awaken me at 4:30 AM, God hears and answers us even when it is inconvenient or last minute.

Prayer weaves for us a relationship with God that is freeing. To really know someone, we need to spend time with him or her. Sometimes we share deeply, sometimes we complain, sometimes we just enjoy each other’s company, and oftentimes we are silent. Perhaps today’s readings invite us to set aside time to ask ourselves whether we take the time to deepen our relationship with the one who is “Abba.” Does our life show our belief in the One who knows and loves us?