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."

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**PS 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8**

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

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

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

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; I give thanks to you, O LORD, for you hear the cries of my prayer.

Amen.

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

You will hear me and answer me; you will say, "I hear the cry of my servant." I am scattered because of my sin, I will be saved by your word.

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

I have heard the voice of your words; I will meditate on your statues. I put your precepts before me and I will not forget.

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

Yet you are good and do good; you make peace for all the peoples. LORD, make me know your ways, test me and prove me.

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

In your kindness you lead forth those who are bound into the shadow of death; you open my eyes that I may see your salvation. LORD, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"