

A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 59:

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;
but your iniquities have made a separation
between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.

Therefore justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not overtake us;
we hope for light, and behold, darkness,
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.
We grope for the wall like the blind;
we grope like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight,
among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him
that there was no justice.
He saw that there was no man,
and wondered that there was no one to intercede;
then his own arm brought him salvation,
and his righteousness upheld him.
He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.
According to their deeds, so will he repay,
wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render repayment.
So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,
and his glory from the rising of the sun;

July 21, 2013

for he will come like a rushing stream,
which the wind of the Lord drives.

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,”
declares the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 52

**Leader: Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.**

People: Your tongue plots destruction,
like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

**Leader: You love evil more than good,
and lying more than speaking what is right.**

People: You love all words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.

**Leader: But God will break you down forever;
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.**

People: The righteous shall see and fear,
and shall laugh at him, saying,

**Leader: "See the man who would not make
God his refuge,
but trusted in the abundance of his riches
and sought refuge in his own destruction!"**

People: But I am like a green olive tree
in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God
forever and ever.

**Leader: I will thank you forever,
because you have done it.**

People: I will wait for your name, for it is good,
in the presence of the godly.

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”