

A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 4 verses 8-16:

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 124

**Leader: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—
let Israel now say—**

People: if it had not been the Lord who was on our side
when people rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,

**Leader: when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,**

People: the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

**Leader: Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!**

People: We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;

**Leader: the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!**

People: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**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.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*