

A reading from the book of Romans chapter 6 verses 1b through 11. You can find the reading on page 942 in your pew Bible.

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 86.

Leader: Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

**People: Preserve my life, for I am godly;
save your servant, who trusts in you—
you are my God.**

Leader: Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all the day.

**People Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

Leader: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

**People: Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.**

Leader: In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.

**People: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.**

Leader All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.

**People: For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.**

Leader: Turn to me and be gracious to me;

**People: give your strength to your servant,
and save the son of your maidservant.**

Leader: Show me a sign of your favor,
that those who hate me may see and be put to shame

**People: because you, LORD, have helped me
and comforted me.**

**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: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

(allow them time to stand)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.