

**A reading from Acts chapter 8 verses 26-35. You can find the reading on page 917 in your pew Bible.**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**  
***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 84.

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!

**People: My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the LORD;**

Leader: my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

**People: Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,**

Leader: where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

**People: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!**

Leader: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**People: As they go through the Valley of Baca  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

Leader: They go from strength to strength;  
each one appears before God in Zion.

**People: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Leader: Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!

**People: For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.**

Leader: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**People: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.**

Leader: No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

**People: O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you!**

**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 John.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***