

**A reading from Genesis chapter 28 verses 10 through 22. You can find the reading on page 22 in your pew Bible.**

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 26.

Leader: Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

**People: Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and my mind.**

Leader: For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in your faithfulness.

**People: I do not sit with men of falsehood,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites.**

Leader: I hate the assembly of evildoers,  
and I will not sit with the wicked.

**People: I wash my hands in innocence  
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

Leader: proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**People: O LORD, I love the habitation of your house  
and the place where your glory dwells.**

Leader: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,  
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

**People: in whose hands are evil devices,  
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

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Leader: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;  
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**People: My foot stands on level ground;  
in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.**

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

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.***