

**A reading from Genesis chapter 31 verses 36 through 42. You can find the reading on page 26 in your pew Bible.**

Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Please join me in praying Psalm 24.

Leader: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,

**People:** **for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**People:** **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.**

Leader: He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**People:** **Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**People:** **Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

People **Who is this King of glory?**  
**The LORD of hosts,**  
**he is the King of glory!**

**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 Mark.**

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

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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