

December 6, 2015

**A reading from Colossians chapter 1 verse 17. You can find the reading on page 983 in your pew Bible.**

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 85.

Leader: LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**People: You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

Leader: You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

**People: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

Leader: Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**People: Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Leader: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

**People: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

Leader: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

**People: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

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Leader: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**People: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.**

**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.***

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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