

January 3, 2016

A reading from Romans chapter 12 verses 1 and 2. You can find the reading on page 947 in your pew Bible.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

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

**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 Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.