

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 8 verses 4 through 13. You can find this reading on page 636 of your pew Bible.**

“You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord:

When men fall, do they not rise again?

If one turns away, does he not return?

Why then has this people turned away  
in perpetual backsliding?

They hold fast to deceit;  
they refuse to return.

I have paid attention and listened,  
but they have not spoken rightly;

no man relents of his evil,  
saying, ‘What have I done?’

Everyone turns to his own course,  
like a horse plunging headlong into battle.

Even the stork in the heavens  
knows her times,

and the turtledove, swallow, and crane  
keep the time of their coming,

but my people know not  
the rules of the Lord.

“How can you say, ‘We are wise,  
and the law of the Lord is with us’?

But behold, the lying pen of the scribes  
has made it into a lie.

The wise men shall be put to shame;  
they shall be dismayed and taken;

behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord,  
so what wisdom is in them?

Therefore I will give their wives to others  
and their fields to conquerors,

because from the least to the greatest  
everyone is greedy for unjust gain;  
from prophet to priest,  
everyone deals falsely.

They have healed the wound of my people lightly,  
saying, 'Peace, peace,'  
when there is no peace.

Were they ashamed when they committed abomination?

No, they were not at all ashamed;  
they did not know how to blush.

Therefore they shall fall among the fallen;  
when I punish them, they shall be overthrown,  
says the Lord.

When I would gather them, declares the Lord,  
there are no grapes on the vine,  
nor figs on the fig tree;  
even the leaves are withered,  
and what I gave them has passed away from them."

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

**Leader: Please join me in praying Psalm 80.**

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**People: You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

Leader: You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

**People: The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

Leader: It sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.

**People: Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

Leader: The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.

**People: Turn again, O God of hosts!  
Look down from heaven, and see;**

Leader: have regard for this vine,  
the stock that your right hand planted,  
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

**People: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**

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**Leader:** But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

**People:** Then we shall not turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call upon your name!

**All:** Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.**

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

In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.

When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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