

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 27 verses 8 through 11. You can find this reading on page 655 of your pew Bible.**

“But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence, declares the Lord, until I have consumed it by his hand. So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon.’ For it is a lie that they are prophesying to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land, and I will drive you out, and you will perish. But any nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave on its own land, to work it and dwell there, declares the Lord.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 99.**

Leader: The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**People: The Lord is great in Zion;  
he is exalted over all the peoples.**

Leader: Let them praise your great and awesome name!  
Holy is he!

**People: The King in his might loves justice.  
You have established equity;**

Leader: you have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.

**People: Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool!  
Holy is he!**

Leader: Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called upon his name.  
They called to the Lord, and he answered them.

**People: In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them;  
they kept his testimonies  
and the statute that he gave them.**

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Leader: O Lord our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**People: Exalt the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the Lord our God is holy!**

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.***

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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