

December 9, 2018

A reading from Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 through 17. You can find this reading on page 977 of your pew Bible.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 126.

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**People: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!

**People: Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

Leader: He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,

**People: shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

**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 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.***