

**A reading from Galatians chapter 3 verses 23 through 29. You can find this reading on page 974 of your pew Bible.**

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 147.**

Leader: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!

**People: For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.**

Leader: He makes peace in your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

**People: He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.**

Leader: He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.

**People: He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;  
who can stand before his cold?**

Leader: He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

**People: He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and rules to Israel.**

Leader: He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his rules.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

**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 John.**

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

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.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord  
*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***