

A reading from Ephesians chapter 3 verses 7 through 13. You can find this reading on page 977 of your pew Bible.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 72.

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

**People: May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

Leader: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

Leader: May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**People: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

Leader: In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**People: May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

Leader: May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!

**People: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;**

Leader: may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

**People: May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve 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 Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.