

August 18, 2013

**A reading from the book of Romans chapter 12, verses  
9-12**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 82**

**Leader: God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:**

People: “How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?”

**Leader: Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.**

People: Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

**Leader: They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk about in darkness;**

People: all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**Leader: I said, “You are gods,  
sons of the Most High, all of you;**

People: nevertheless, like men you shall die,  
and fall like any prince.”

**Leader: Arise, O God, judge the earth;**

People: for you shall inherit all the nations!

**All: 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.**

## The Gospel: Luke 18:1-17

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."