

**A reading from the book of Acts, chapter 1, verses 1 through 8. The reading may be found on page 909 of your pew Bible.**

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Reader: The Word of the Lord.**

*People: Thanks to be to God.*

**Please join me in praying Psalm 71, verses 1 through 6.**

**Leader: In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!**

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me, and save me!**

**Leader: Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.**

**People: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**

**Leader: For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O my Lord, from my youth.**

**People: Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;  
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.**

**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.**