

A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 2 verses 4-17:

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 104

**Leader: You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;**

People: they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**Leader: Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.**

People: From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

**Leader: You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,**

People: that he may bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

**Leader: The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.**

People: In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.

**Leader: The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.**

People: He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

October 6, 2013

**Leader: You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.**

People: The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

**Leader: When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.**

People: Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.

**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.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*