

A reading from the book of Revelation chapter 20 verses 1 through 10.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of

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fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 27

**Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**Leader: When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

People: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

**Leader: One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:**

People: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

**Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;**

People: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**Leader: And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

People: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**Leader: You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek."**

People: Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.

**Leader: Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!**

People: For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

**Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

People: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

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**Leader: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness
of the Lord
in the land of the living!**

People: Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord

**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: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

(allow them time to stand)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’”

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and

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over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

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.*