

A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 50 verses 4 through 11.

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.

I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.

But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.

Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?

March 23, 2014

Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

Behold, all you who kindle a fire,
who equip yourselves with burning torches!

Walk by the light of your fire,
and by the torches that you have kindled!

This you have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 95

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him
with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

**People: In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.**

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**People: For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Leader: Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

**People: when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work.**

March 23, 2014

Leader: For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray
in their heart,
and they have not known my ways."

**People: Therefore I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter my rest."**

**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 Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.