

A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 61 verses 1 to 4:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 22.

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**People: Why are you so far from saving me,
from the words of my groaning?**

Leader: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

**People: Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

Leader: In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

**People: To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

Leader: But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

**People: All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;**

Leader: "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

**People: Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.**

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Leader: On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

**People: Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.**

**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.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.