

**A reading from 1 Kings 8:22-30. You can find the reading on page 288 in your pew Bible.**

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

**The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 84.

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!

**People: My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.**

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

**People: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!**

Leader: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**People: As they go through the Valley of Baca  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

Leader: They go from strength to strength;  
each one appears before God in Zion.

**People: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Leader: Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!

**People: For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.**

Leader: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**People: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.**

Leader: No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

**People: O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in 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.**

**A reading from 1 Peter 2:1-10. You can find the reading on page 1014 in your pew Bible.**

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”  
and  
“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**The Word of the Lord.**  
***Thanks be to God.***

**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.***

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**Leader: You may be seated.**