

**A reading from Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1 through 9. You can find the reading on page 575 in your pew Bible.**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

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

Please join me in praying Psalm 112.

Leader: Praise the LORD!  
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!

**People: His offspring will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Leader: Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**People: Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

Leader: It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;  
who conducts his affairs with justice.

**People: For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.**

Leader: He is not afraid of bad news;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

**People: His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,  
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

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Leader: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever;  
his horn is exalted in honor.

**People: The wicked man sees it and is angry;  
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;  
the desire of the wicked will perish!**

**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.***

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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