

A reading from Isaiah chapter 58 verses 6 through 12. You can find the reading on page 617 in your pew Bible.

“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.

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And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 103.

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**People: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

**People: who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**People: The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Leader: He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

**People: The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**People: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**People: as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**People: For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.**

Leader: As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

**People: for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.**

Leader: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,

**People: to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.**

Leader: The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

**People: Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!**

Leader: Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!

**People: Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.**

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

**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 John.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.