

A reading from Micah chapter 6 verses 6 through 8. You can find the reading on page 779 in your pew Bible.

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 4.

Leader: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

**People: O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

Leader: But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

**People: Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.**

Leader: Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

**People: There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"**

Leader: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**People: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

**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 for ever.
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 Mark.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.