

**A reading from Isaiah chapter 58 verses 2 through 14. You can find the reading on page 617 in your pew Bible.**

Yet they seek me daily  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that did righteousness  
and did not forsake the judgment of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not?  
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’  
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,  
and oppress all your workers.

Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day  
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day for a person to humble himself?  
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,  
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,  
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

“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.  
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.

"If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,  
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,  
and call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;  
then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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

Please join me in praying Psalm 27.

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,

**People: my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.**

Leader: Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;

**People: though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:

**People: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,**

Leader: to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.

**People: For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;**

Leader: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**People: And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,**

Leader: and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**People: I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Leader: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: You have said, "Seek my face."**

Leader: My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."  
Hide not your face from me.

**People: Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.**

Leader: Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

**People: For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
but the LORD will take me in.**

Leader: Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

**People: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.**

Leader: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

**People: Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!**

**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 John.**

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

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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