

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 29 verses 1 and 4 through 14. You can find the reading on page 656 in your pew Bible.**

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 112.

Leader: Praise the LORD!

**People: Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Leader: The wicked man sees it and is angry;  
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;

**People: 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 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.***

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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