

**A reading from Galatians chapter 2 verses 17 through 21. You can find the reading on page 973 in your pew Bible.**

But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 8.

Leader: O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,**

Leader: you have established strength because of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.

**People: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

Leader: what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?

**People: Yet you have made him a little lower  
than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.**

Leader: You have given him dominion over the works  
of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,

**People: all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,**

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Leader: the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**People: O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**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.***

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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