

A reading from Daniel chapter 1 verses 1 through 7. You can find the reading on page 737 in your pew Bible.

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 111.

Leader: Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**People: Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**People: He has caused his wondrous works
to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Leader: He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**People: He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**People: they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Leader: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

**People: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

**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 Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.