

**A reading from Genesis chapter 29 verses 1 through 12. You can find the reading on page 23 in your pew Bible.**

Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!" He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them." But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 6.

Leader: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,  
nor discipline me in your wrath.

**People: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;  
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.**

Leader: My soul also is greatly troubled.  
But you, O LORD—how long?

**People: Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;  
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.**

Leader: For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
in Sheol who will give you praise?

**People: I am weary with my moaning;  
every night I flood my bed with tears;  
I drench my couch with my weeping.**

Leader: My eye wastes away because of grief;  
it grows weak because of all my foes.

**People: Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.**

Leader: The LORD has heard my plea;  
the LORD accepts my prayer.

**People: All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.**

**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 he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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