

December 13, 2015

**A reading from Colossians chapter 1 verse 18a. You can find the reading on page 983 in your pew Bible.**

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 126.

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

**People: The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

**People: Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

Leader: He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,

**People: shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.**

**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.***

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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