

A reading from Colossians chapter 1 verse 15-20. You can find the reading on page 983 in your pew Bible.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 80.

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Leader: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!

**People: Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Leader: O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**People: You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

Leader: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.