

A reading from Romans chapter 14 verses 10 through 20. You can find the reading on page 948 in your pew Bible.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 31.

Leader: But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."

**People: My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies
and from my persecutors!**

Leader: Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!

**People: O LORD, let me not be put to shame,
for I call upon you;**

Leader: let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go silently to Sheol.

**People: Let the lying lips be mute,
which speak insolently against the righteous
in pride and contempt.**

Leader: Oh, how abundant is your goodness,
which you have stored up for those who fear you
and worked for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of the children of mankind!

**People: In the cover of your presence you hide them
from the plots of men;
you store them in your shelter
from the strife of tongues.**

Leader: Blessed be the LORD,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was in a besieged city.

**People: I had said in my alarm,
“I am cut off from your sight.”
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy
when I cried to you for help.**

**Leader: Love the LORD, all you his saints!
The LORD preserves the faithful
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.**

**People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!**

**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.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.