

A reading from Acts chapter 8 verses 26 through 40. You can find the reading on page 917 in your pew Bible.

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 148.

Leader: Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!**

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!

**People: Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For he commanded and they were created.

**People: And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

Leader: Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

**People: fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

Leader: Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

**People: Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**People: Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

**People: He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.**

All: Praise 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 John.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.