

**A reading from Amos chapter 5 verses 18 through 24. You can find the reading on page 790 in your pew Bible.**

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,

as if a man fled from a lion,

and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,

and a serpent bit him.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

“I hate, I despise your feasts,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,

I will not look upon them.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 139.

Leader: O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**

Leader: You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.**

Leader: Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

**People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**People: even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.**

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Leader: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"

**People: even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.**

**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 Matthew.**

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

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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