

A reading from Romans chapter 12 verses 9 through 21. You can find the reading on page 790 in your pew Bible.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 129.

Leader: “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—
let Israel now say—

**People: “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.**

Leader: The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”

**People: The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.**

Leader: May all who hate Zion
be put to shame and turned backward!

**People: Let them be like the grass on the housetops,
which withers before it grows up,**

Leader: with which the reaper does not fill his hand
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,

**People: nor do those who pass by say,
“The blessing of the LORD be upon you!
We bless you in the name of 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 Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.