

**A reading from Habakkuk chapter 1 verses 1 through 13. You can find the reading on page 785 in your pew Bible.**

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
Why do you make me see iniquity,  
and why do you idly look at wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
So the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never goes forth.  
For the wicked surround the righteous;  
so justice goes forth perverted.

"Look among the nations, and see;  
wonder and be astounded.  
For I am doing a work in your days  
that you would not believe if told.  
For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  
that bitter and hasty nation,  
who march through the breadth of the earth,  
to seize dwellings not their own.  
They are dreaded and fearsome;  
their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.  
Their horses are swifter than leopards,  
more fierce than the evening wolves;  
their horsemen press proudly on.  
Their horsemen come from afar;  
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.  
They all come for violence,  
all their faces forward.

They gather captives like sand.  
At kings they scoff,  
and at rulers they laugh.  
They laugh at every fortress,  
for they pile up earth and take it.  
Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,  
guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

Are you not from everlasting,  
O LORD my God, my Holy One?  
We shall not die.  
O LORD, you have ordained them as a judgment,  
and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.  
You who are of purer eyes than to see evil  
and cannot look at wrong,  
why do you idly look at traitors  
and remain silent when the wicked swallows up  
the man more righteous than he?

**The Word of the Lord.**  
***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 88.

Leader: O LORD, God of my salvation;  
I cry out day and night before you.

**People: Let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry!**

Leader: For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to Sheol.

**People: I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I am a man who has no strength,**

Leader: like one set loose among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave,

**People: like those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.**

Leader: You have put me in the depths of the pit,  
in the regions dark and deep.

**People: Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.**

**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.***

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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