

A reading from Jeremiah chapter 42 verses 7 through 17. You can find these readings on page 669 of your pew Bible.

At the end of ten days the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. Then he summoned Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest, and said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea for mercy before him: If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you. Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land. But if you say, 'We will not remain in this land,' disobeying the voice of the Lord your God and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,' then hear the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there, then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die. All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 90.

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

**People: For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.**

Leader: You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

**People: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

Leader: For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

**People: You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

Leader: For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**People: The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Leader: Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

**People: So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.