

**A reading from Isaiah chapter 56 verses 3 through 8. You can find this reading on page 616 of your pew Bible.**

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,  
“The Lord will surely separate me from his people”;

and let not the eunuch say,  
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

For thus says the Lord:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,

I will give in my house and within my walls  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,

everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,  
and holds fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.”

The Lord God,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,  
“I will gather yet others to him  
besides those already gathered.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 91.**

Leader: Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—

**People: no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**

Leader: For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

**People: On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

Leader: You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**People: “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.**

Leader: When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.

**People: With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”**

**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 Mark.**

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

And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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