

December 23, 2018

A reading from Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 through 19. You can find this reading on page 977 of your pew Bible.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 80.

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

**People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,**

Leader: stir up your might
and come to save us!

**People: Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Leader: O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**People: You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

Leader: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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 Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**