

**A reading from Isaiah chapter 35 verses 1 through 7. You can find this reading on page 595 of your pew Bible.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 113.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!**

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time forth and forevermore!

**People: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

Leader: The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens!

**People: Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high,  
who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?**

Leader: He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**People: to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.**

Leader: He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.

**People: Praise 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 forever. Amen.**

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

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

And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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