

**A reading from Jeremiah chapter 1 verses 4 through 10. You can find this reading on page 627 of your pew Bible.**

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak,  
for I am only a youth.” But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;  
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,  
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
declares the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the  
Lord said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to break down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 71.**

Leader: In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me, and save me!**

Leader: Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may continually come;

**People: you have given the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Leader: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

**People: For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.**

Leader: Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;  
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.

**People: My praise is continually of you.**

**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 said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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