

A reading from the Hebrew Testament and the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for God. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O God, you are our Creator; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O God, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PAUSE

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Isaiah 64:1-9, NRSV

Let us say the psalm together.

Turn Your ear toward us, Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead the children of Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned above heaven's winged creatures, radiate Your light!

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, arouse Your strength and power, and save us!

Bring us back to You, God. Turn the light of Your face upon us so that we will be rescued from this sea of darkness.

O Eternal God, Commander of heaven's armies,
how long will You remain angry at the prayers of Your sons and daughters?

*You have given them tears for food;
You have given them an abundance of tears to drink.*

You have made us a source of trouble for our neighbours— our enemies laugh to each other behind our backs.

*O God, Commander of heaven's armies, bring us back to You.
Turn the light of Your face upon us so that we will be rescued from this sea of darkness.*

Your enemies have chopped it down and burned it with fire; may they be destroyed by the sight of Your rebuke.

Let Your protective hand rest on the one who is at Your right hand, the child of man whom You have raised and nurtured for Yourself.

Then we will not turn away from You.
Bring us back to life! And we will call out for You!

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and Jesus the Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of Jesus the Christ. Christ will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Saviour Jesus the Christ. God is faithful; by God you were called into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus the Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.

PAUSE

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, NRSV

Deacon May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

“But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten—no one but God.

Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come. “It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert. So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cockcrows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

PAUSE

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Mark 13:24-37, Inclusive Bible