

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 7

Refrain: Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord.

All: Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord.

- 1 O Lord my God, in you I take refuge; ♦
save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me,
- 2 Lest they rend me like a lion and tear me in pieces ♦
while there is no one to help me.
- 3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things: if there is any wickedness in my hands,
- 4 If I have repaid my friend with evil, ♦
or plundered my enemy without a cause,
- 5 Then let my enemy pursue me and overtake me, ♦
trample my life to the ground, and lay my honour in the dust.

All: Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord.

- 6 Rise up, O Lord, in your wrath;
lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies. ♦
Awaken, my God, the judgement that you have commanded.
- 7 Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you; ♦
be seated high above them: O Lord, judge the nations.

All: Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord.

8 Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord, ♦
and according to the innocence that is in me.

9 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; ♦
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.

10 God is my shield that is over me; ♦ he saves the true of heart.

11 God is a righteous judge; ♦ he is provoked all day long.

All: *Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.