

First Reader: A READING FROM JEREMIAH

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Our Psalm for today is Psalm 84. We will respond by whole verse.

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 **For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 **O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Second Reader: A Reading from Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the LORD Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Trusting in God, let us pray, O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another.
Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of central Texas and this nation together in a spirit of love and respect. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died rise to life immortal. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

The Celebrant continues:

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**