CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 12:3-6

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: 'Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Let's worship God. Let's pray.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, our Lord and our God. Please help us unite as one body and lift our voice in praise to you. As we come into your presence, make real the words spoken by the Prophet Isaiah, as we give thanks to you, call on your name, make your deeds known among people, and see to it that your name is celebrated here on earth. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying together...

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!"

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* **RESPONSE** #705

Gloria Patri

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please share the Peace of Christ with those who are seated near you, and with those who are with us online.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Give us ear, O God, that we may hear your word. Give us heart, O God, that we may seek you faithfully and fully throughout our days. Give us feet, O God, that we may carry your word with us throughout this life. Give us hands, O God, that we may be faithful to do the work you have prepared for each of us to do, and the even more difficult task of leaving alone your work which does not belong to us.

We admit that there are times when we cannot understand your will or your work. In those moments, give us faith to trust you. And help us, we pray, to find you in your word.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE #1: *Luke 12:49-56*

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, motherin-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

SCRIPTURE #2:

Jeremiah 23:1-8, 28-32

¹ "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will set

shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

⁵ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: The LORD is our righteousness.'

⁷ "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' ⁸ but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? ³⁰ Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. ³¹ Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' ³² Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.

SERMON: The Dangerous Word of the Lord

"'Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat?' declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:28)