

**A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah.**

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, here no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

The Word of the Lord

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

Today, we will read Psalm 81:1, 10-16. It can be found on page 704 in the Book of Common Prayer, or on the screens behind me. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

- 1 Sing with joy to God our strength \*  
**and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**
- 10 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the  
land of Egypt and said, \*  
**"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**
- 11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*  
**and Israel would not obey me.**
- 12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,  
\*  
**to follow their own devices.**
- 13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*  
**that Israel would walk in my ways!**
- 14 I should soon subdue their enemies \*  
**and turn my hand against their foes.**
- 15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, \*  
**and their punishment would last for ever.**
- 16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*  
**and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.**

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**