

**Service of the Word**

**Hymns**

- 19 All my hope on God is founded  
964 Gloria  
434 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep  
259 Hail to the Lord's anointed  
249 Great is thy faithfulness

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

*An Old Testament reading – Joan*

**Song of Solomon 2: 8 - 13**

- <sup>8</sup> Listen! My beloved!  
Look! Here he comes,  
leaping across the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
<sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.  
Look! There he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattice.  
<sup>10</sup> My beloved spoke and said to me,  
"Arise, my darling,  
my beautiful one, come with me.  
<sup>11</sup> See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.  
<sup>12</sup> Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come,  
the cooing of doves  
is heard in our land.  
<sup>13</sup> The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come, my darling;  
my beautiful one, come with me."

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 45: 1 – 2, 6 - 9**

- <sup>1</sup> My heart is stirred by a noble theme  
as I recite my verses for the king;  
my tongue is the pen of a skilful writer.  
<sup>2</sup> You are the most excellent of men  
and your lips have been anointed with  
grace,  
since God has blessed you forever.  
<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, will last for ever and  
ever;  
a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of  
your kingdom.  
<sup>7</sup> You love righteousness and hate wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above  
your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy.  
<sup>8</sup> All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and  
aloes and cassia;  
from palaces adorned with ivory  
the music of the strings makes you glad.  
<sup>9</sup> Daughters of kings are among your  
honoured women;  
at your right hand is the royal bride in gold  
of Ophir.



*Like a Deer  
Leaping  
Mountains  
Peter Koenig  
20<sup>Th</sup> Century*

*A New Testament reading – Sue*

**James 1: 17 - 27**

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it - not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it - they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel reading – Chris*

**Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 - 23**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that

is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So, the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain;

their teachings are merely human rules.'

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

Again, Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come - sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



*Heart of the World*

*Mikhail Reva*

*21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*Odessa Children's Hospital*