

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 1 Prayer Service

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, from the moment of our first sin in the garden, you had a glorious plan to redeem us. Son of God, you were sent into the world to raise us up with you as sons and daughters of the Father. Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts now so that we might listen and respond to the story of our salvation with generosity and love. We ask all of this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then the LORD God said to the snake:
Because you have done this,
cursed are you
among all the animals, tame or wild;
On your belly you shall crawl,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
They will strike at your head,
while you strike at their heel.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: O RUBY BLOOD WHICH FLOWED FROM ON HIGH
WHERE DIVINITY TOUCHED. YOU ARE A FLOWER THAT THE WINTER
OF THE SERPENT'S BREATH CAN NEVER INJURE. AMEN.

All: O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD—
when I will raise up a righteous branch for David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name to be given him:
“The LORD our justice.”

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: O LEAFY BRANCH, STANDING IN YOUR NOBILITY
AS THE DAWN BREAKS FORTH:
NOW REJOICE AND BE GLAD,
AND DEIGN TO SET US FRAIL ONES FREE FROM EVIL HABITS
AND STRETCH FORTH YOUR HAND AND LIFT US UP. AMEN.

All: O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

Reader: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All: O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are our savior, redeemer, and friend. Through your life, death, and Resurrection, you rescued us from sin and made us your own. Even when we were far from you, you looked at us with love and rescued us. Come into our hearts, O Lord, that we might know and love and serve you better all the days of our lives. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.