

Easter 5 / Rogation Sunday

The Old Testament is written in the 34th chapter of the Prophet Ezekiel, beginning at the 25th verse.

This passage may be found in your pew Bible on page 998.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

Thus says the Lord...

“I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor

shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make *them* afraid. I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, *am* with them, and they, the house of Israel, *are* My people,” says the Lord GOD.’

“You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you *are* men, and I *am* your God,” says the Lord GOD.

This is the word of the Lord.

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The Psalter – Psalm 65:1-5

THOU, O God, art praised in Sion; * and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Thou that hearest the prayer, * unto thee shall all flesh come.

My misdeeds prevail against me: * O be thou merciful unto our sins.

Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and receivest unto thee: * he shall dwell in thy court, and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Thou shalt show us wonderful things in thy righteousness, O God of our salvation; * thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea.

Who in his strength setteth fast the mountains, * and is girded about with power.

Who stilleth the raging of the sea, * and the noise of his waves, and the madness of the peoples.

They also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth shall be afraid at thy tokens, * thou that makest the out-goings of the morning and evening to praise thee.

Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it; * thou makest it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water: * thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.

Thou waterest her furrows; thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof; * thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; * and thy clouds drop fatness.

They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness; * and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.

The folds shall be full of sheep; * the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing.

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The New Testament is written in the first chapter of the Epistle of St. James, beginning at the 22nd verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 176.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

BE ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful

hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.