

Psalm 66

Jubilate Deo

1 Be joyful in God, all you lands *
be joyful, all the earth.

2 sing the glory of the divine name; *
sing the glory of God's praise.

3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! *
Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

4 All the earth bows down before you, *
sings to you, sings out your name."

5 Come now and see the works of God, *
how wonderful you are, O God, in your doing toward all people.

6 You turned the sea into dry land,
so that they went through the water on foot, *
and there we rejoiced in you.

7 In your might you rule for ever;
your eyes keep watch over the nations; *
let no rebel rise up against you.

8 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of God's praise to be heard;

9 who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

10 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

12 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings *
and will pay you my vows,

14 which I promised with my lips *
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

16 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what the Lord has done for me,

17 The One to whom I called out with my mouth *
and whose praise was on my tongue.

18 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

19 But in truth God has heard me *
and has attended to the voice of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld steadfast love from me.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:1-16

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.