

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS (EPH. 1:3-6)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 97

¹ The Lord is King, let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

² Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord; for you are the Lord: most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

³ The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

⁴ Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.