First Reading

Psalm 46

A reading of the 46th Psalm.

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth melts away.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now, regard the works of the LORD,

what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the 1st Chapter of Colossians.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**