

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God,

Your Word has guided Your people throughout the generations.

As we hear the Scriptures read and proclaimed today,

send Your Holy Spirit to open our minds,

soften our hearts,

and strengthen our faith.

Help us to hear not merely ancient stories,

but Your living Word speaking into our own lives.

When we struggle with disappointment,

teach us to trust Your faithfulness.

When we cannot understand Your ways,

help us to rest in Your promises.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

¹⁵ Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was

Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak^[a] eyes, but Rachel had a lovely

figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with

Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

¹⁹ Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to

some other man. Stay here with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served

seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few

days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.”

²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

²⁶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

²⁸ And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Second Reading: Psalm 105:1-11, 45

**¹ Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.**

**² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.**

**³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

**⁴ Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.**

**⁵ Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,**

**⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.**

⁷ He is the Lord our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,

the promise he made, for a thousand generations,

⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,

the oath he swore to Isaac.

¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

¹¹ “To you I will give the land of Canaan

as the portion you will inherit.”

⁴⁵ that they might keep his precepts

and observe his laws.

Praise the Lord.^[a]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.