

**A reading from the book of 1 Thessalonians chapter 2  
verse 1 through 8.**

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 31.

Leader: In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me!

**People: Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily!**

Leader: Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me!

**People: For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me  
and guide me;**

Leader: you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

**People: Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

Leader: I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,  
but I trust in the LORD.

**People: I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,  
because you have seen my affliction;**

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Leader: you have known the distress of my soul,  
and you have not delivered me into the hand  
of the enemy;

**People: you have set my feet in a broad place.**

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.**

**Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

*(allow them time to stand)*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**Leader: You may be seated.**