

**A reading from the book of 1 Thessalonians chapter 3
verses 1 - 10.**

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 16.

Leader: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**People: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."**

Leader: As for the saints in the land,
they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

**People: The sorrows of those who run after another god
shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.**

Leader: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

**People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

Leader: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

**People: I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand,
I shall not be shaken.**

Leader: Therefore my heart is glad,
and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

**People: For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.**

Leader: You make known to me the path of life;

**People: in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**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.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.