

A reading from Acts 16:1-5. You can find the reading on page 924 in your pew Bible.

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 149.

Leader: Praise the LORD!
Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

**People; Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!**

Leader: Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

**People: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.**

Leader: Let the godly exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

**People: Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,**

Leader: to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishments on the peoples,

**People: to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,**

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Leader: to execute on them the judgment written!
This is honor for all his godly ones.

People: Praise the LORD!

**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 Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.