

**A reading from 1 Timothy 1:3-11. You can find the reading on page 991 in your pew Bible.**

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

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

Please join me in praying Psalm 114.

Leader: When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

**People: Judah became his sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.**

Leader: The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.

**People: The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.**

Leader: What ails you, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?

**People: O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?**

Leader: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**People: who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
the flint into a spring of water.**

**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.***

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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

**Leader: You may be seated.**