

**A reading from 1 Timothy 1:12-17. You can find the reading on page 991 in your pew Bible.**

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

Leader: 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**People: You make known to me the path of life;  
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 Mark.**

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

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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

**Leader: You may be seated.**