

A reading from Philippians chapter 3 verses 7 through 14. You can find the reading on page 981 in your pew Bible.

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 32.

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**People: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD
counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Leader: I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

**People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Leader: Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

**People: surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

Leader: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;

People: you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

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Leader: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**People: Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.**

Leader: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

**People: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

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

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.