

**A selection of readings from 1 Timothy chapter 1 verses 12 through 17. You can find this reading on page 991 of 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 51.

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

**People: For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,

**People: so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.**

Leader: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**People: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**People: Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

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Leader: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Leader: Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**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 Luke.**

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

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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