

A reading from Acts chapter 17 verses 16 through 20. You can find this reading on page 926 of your pew Bible.

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 27.

Leader: One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

**People: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

**People: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.**

Leader: And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

**People: and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

Leader: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

**People: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!**

Leader: You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,

**People: "Your face, Lord, do I seek."
Hide not your face from me.**

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Leader: Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.

**People: Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!**

**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 for ever. *Amen.***

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord
*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***