

A reading from the book of Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and Luke 15:1-10

Psalm 14

Denunciation of Godlessness

To the leader. Of David.

¹ Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.

² The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind

to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

³ They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;

there is no one who does good,
no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers

who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon the LORD?

⁵ There they shall be in great terror,

for God is with the company of the righteous.

⁶ You would confound the plans of the poor,

but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gratitude for Mercy

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever.^[a] Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ ‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ ‘Or what woman having ten silver coins,^[a] if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

“The Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God.”
OR *“Here ends the reading.”*