

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once!
Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt,
have acted perversely;

8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them;
they have cast for themselves an image of a calf
and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said,
"These are your gods, O Israel,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

9The Lord said to Moses,
"I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.

10Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them
and I may consume them,
and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that their god brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever." ¹⁴And the LORD relented from bringing about the disaster that the LORD had planned to bring on the people.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 51:1-10

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from First Timothy.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence.

But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy,

so that in me, as the foremost,

Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

¹⁷To the Sovereign of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So Jesus told them this parable:

⁴"Which man 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?

⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷Just 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.

8"Or what woman of you having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

9And 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.'

10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The gospel of the Lord.