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A Pastoral Litany: Readings from 1-2 Timothy

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This liturgical reading from 1 and 2 Timothy highlights the theological, christological, and ministerial themes of the letter. The reading is configured here for a narrator (N) who reads the text of the epistles and two solo readers (1 and 2).

1

N  Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope ... (I 1:1)

1  God is our Savior
2  Christ Jesus our hope
1/2  We are his emissaries, we act under orders

2

N  Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (I 1:2)

1  God is our Father
2  Christ Jesus our Lord
1/2  We live from his grace, and under his mercy, we live in his peace

3

N  ... the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. (I 1:11)

1  God is the blessed
2  Christ his good news
1/2  We are entrusted with the gospel of glory

4

N  I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly and in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 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. 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 could come 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. (I 1:12-17)

1  We give thanks to Christ Jesus
2  He is our Lord
1  He is the source of our strength,
2 even though we were sinners
1 He has judged us faithful,
2 in spite of our failings
1 He has set us to service
2 even though we are sinners
1 He made mercy upon us
2 in spite of ignorance and unbelief
1 He greatly graced us
2 and faithed us
1/2 and loved us
1 He came into this world to save sinners
2 because we were sinners
1 He persisted in patience
2 so we might be models of faith and life
1/2 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory, forever and ever, Amen.

5 This is right and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and
to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and
humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right
time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle ... a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (1:2:3-7)

1 God is our Savior
2 the savior of all
1/2 We are the ones he wants to be saved
1 Christ Jesus is our mediator
2 the ransom of all
1/2 We are the humans for whom he was human
1 God is one, one God for all
2 Jesus is one, one mediator for all
1/2 We are his heralds with news for the nations, for all

6 ... so you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the
loving God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He
was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in through-
out the world, taken up in glory. (1:3:15-16)

1 The household is God's
the church God loves
God its support, God its strength
2 The mystery is Christ
flesh and spirit, heaven and earth
exclaimed among nations, exalted in glory
1/2 We live in that family, we walk in that faith, we proclaim that good news

7
N For everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer. (1:4-5)

1 God is creator
2 and what that good God gives us is good
1/2 We receive his good gifts, give thanks for his gifts making sacred in the using what was sacred in the making

8
N If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. (1:6)

1 Christ Jesus is our master
2 the source of our sustenance
1/2 We are his servants, nourished on the faith knowing by following

9
N For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1:10)

1 A living God is our Savior, all of us
2 God is our living hope, all our hope
1/2 We labor in that hope, we live in that faith

10
N In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who ... made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal dominion, Amen. (1:13-16)

1 God is creator of life in all
2 Christ Jesus confesses his connection to God
1/2 We live in the presence of God, we echo the confession of Christ
1 God is the blessed King
2 Jesus Christ our Lord
1/2 We live pure under his power, we live life in his life, we see blind in his light
1 To the one who is blessed, the only Sovereign,
2 the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
1/2 to him be honor and eternal dominion, Amen.
11 ... join me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (II 1:8-10)

1 God is our power
2 God is our Savior
1/2 We are called according to his gracious purpose
1 Christ Jesus is our grace
2 He is our Savior
1/2 We are brought to life, brought to light through him
1 In God we suffer
2 for God is our strength
1 By Christ we are saved
2 for Christ is our salvation
1/2 We are graced from eternity then, dead but alive, mortal but immortal

12 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel ... The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him ... (II 2:8, 11-12a)

1 Jesus Christ is our memory
2 ascended from the dead, descended from David
1 We died with him,
2 no, live with him,
1 we endure suffering with him,
2 no, reign sovereignly with him

13 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message, be persistent when the time is favorable or unfavorable, convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. (II 4:1-2)

1 God is our presence
2 Christ Jesus is our judge
1 We live in the light of his appearing,
2 called to life in his kingdom
1 We proclaim the message,
2 persisting in the moment
1 We correct and encourage
2 patient in being taught, patient in teaching

14

1 Creator and king,
King and lord,
To the King of the ages be glory and honor
Lord and master
Master and mediator
To him be glory and honor forever
Mediator and memory
Savior and strength
To him be honor and eternal dominion
Strength and sustenance, hope and help
Rescue and ransom, presence and purpose
Purpose and power
Grace and good news
To him be glory forever and ever
Amen to the one
To the only one
Forever and ever, Amen