Psalm 96:1-4 (NRSV)

Praise to God Who Comes in Judgement

1 O sing to the LORD a new song;
    sing to the LORD, all the earth.
2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
    tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
    his marvelous works among all the peoples.
4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
    he is to be revered above all gods.

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1 Thessalonians 1 (NRSV)

Salutation

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

The Thessalonians' Faith and Example

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators

of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy
inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers
in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from
you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in
God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the
people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among
you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,
10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus,
who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.