



Wednesday, August 20th

Psalm 119:145-176

145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord. I will keep your statutes.

146 I cry to you; save me, that I may observe your decrees.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your words.

148 My eyes are awake before each watch of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.

149 In your steadfast love hear my voice; O Lord, in your justice preserve my life.

150 Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near; they are far from your law.

151 Yet you are near, O Lord, and all your commandments are true.

152 Long ago I learned from your decrees that you have established them forever.

153 Look on my misery and rescue me, for I do not forget your law.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

156 Great is your mercy, O Lord; be gracious to me according to your justice.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

158 I look at the faithless with disgust because they do not keep your commands.

159 Consider how I love your precepts; be gracious to me according to your steadfast love.

160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

161 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances.

165 Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I fulfill your commandments.

167 My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.

168 I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

170 Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

171 My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

172 My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 23:23-35)

Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, "Get ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and take him safely to Felix the governor." He wrote a letter to this effect:

"Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman, I came with the guard and rescued him. Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council. I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him."

So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod's headquarters.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark (Mark 12:13-27)

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some

Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children, and the second married the widow and died, leaving no children, and the third likewise; none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when people rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead but of the living; you are quite wrong."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.