

A reading from Acts chapter 23 verses 6 through 11. You can find this reading on page 932 of your pew Bible.

Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 146.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**People: Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

Leader: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,**

Leader: who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,

**People: who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

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Leader: The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: **The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.**

All: Praise the Lord!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. 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 put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.