

A reading from Acts chapter 20 verses 26 through 38. You can find this reading on page 930 of your pew Bible.

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 138.

Leader: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**People: I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness,**

Leader: for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

**People: On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.**

Leader: All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,

**People: and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.**

Leader: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

**People: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;**

Leader: you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

**People: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**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 Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.