

## Acts 5.12-26

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life." When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside." Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. Then someone arrived and announced, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

## Psalm 34 *Benedicam Dominum*

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; \*  
let the humble hear and rejoice.

- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; \*  
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me \*  
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me \*  
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, \*  
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; \*  
happy are they who trust in him!

#### John 3.16-21

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”