

**FIRST READING Deuteronomy 10.12-11.1**

*A reading from Deuteronomy, Chapter 10.*

So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you?  
Only to fear the LORD your God,  
to walk in all his ways, to love him,  
to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,  
and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God  
and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.  
Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God,  
the earth with all that is in it,  
yet the LORD set his heart in love on your ancestors alone  
and chose you, their descendants after them,  
out of all the peoples, as it is today.  
Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart,  
and do not be stubborn any longer.  
For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords,  
the great God, mighty and awesome,  
who is not partial and takes no bribe,  
who executes justice for the orphan and the widow,  
and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.  
You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.  
You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship;  
to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear.  
He is your praise; he is your God,  
who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.  
Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons;  
and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.  
You shall love the LORD your God, therefore, and keep his charge,  
his decrees, his ordinances, and his commandments always.

*For the Word of the LORD.*

Common Worship - **Morning Prayer Readings** -Church of England  
2nd. Sunday after Trinity (Proper 6) Year C

**SECOND READING**

**Acts 23.12 – 35**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 23 - (continuing from last week).*

In the morning the Jews joined in a conspiracy  
and bound themselves by an oath –

neither to eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

There were more than forty who joined in this conspiracy.

They went to the chief priests and elders and said,

"We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath  
to taste no food until we have killed Paul.

Now then, you and the council must notify the tribune to bring him down to you,  
on the pretext that you want to make a more thorough examination of his case.

And we are ready to do away with him before he arrives."

Now the son of Paul's sister heard about the ambush;  
so he went and gained entrance to the barracks and told Paul.

Paul called one of the centurions and said,

"Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to report to him."

So he took him, brought him to the tribune, and said,

"The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you;  
he has something to tell you."

The tribune took him by the hand, drew him aside privately, and asked,

"What is it that you have to report to me?"

He answered,

"The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow,  
as though they were going to inquire more thoroughly into his case.

But do not be persuaded by them,

for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him.

They have bound themselves by an oath

neither to eat nor drink until they kill him.

They are ready now and are waiting for your consent."

So the tribune dismissed the young man, ordering him,

"Tell no one that you have informed me of this."

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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 citizen,  
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.

*For the Word of the LORD.*