

**Wednesday, May 26**

**Acts 20:28-38**

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

**Psalms 68: 28-36**

28 Send forth your strength, O God; establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.

29 Kings shall bring gifts to you, for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.

30 Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls with its calves.

31 Trample down those who lust after silver; scatter the peoples that delight in war.

32 Let tribute be brought out of Egypt; let Ethiopia stretch out her hands to God.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

**John 17:11-19**

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven.  
Mercifully give us faith to know  
that, as he promised,  
he abides with us on earth to the end of time;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen