

**A READING FROM ACTS 11:27-12:3**

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.)

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PSALM 7:1-10**    *Said in unison*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD my God, I take refuge in you; \*  
    save and deliver me from all who pursue me;
- <sup>2</sup> Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces \*  
    and snatch me away with none to deliver me.
- <sup>3</sup> O LORD my God, if I have done these things: \*  
    if there is any wickedness in my hands,
- <sup>4</sup> If I have repaid my friend with evil, \*  
    or plundered him who without cause is my enemy;
- <sup>5</sup> Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, \*  
    trample my life into the ground,  
    and lay my honor in the dust.
- <sup>6</sup> Stand up, O LORD, in your wrath; \*  
    rise up against the fury of my enemies.
- <sup>7</sup> Awake, O my God, decree justice; \*  
    let the assembly of the peoples gather round you.
- <sup>8</sup> Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; \*  
    O LORD, judge the nations.
- <sup>9</sup> Give judgment for me according to my righteousness, O LORD, \*  
    and according to my innocence, O Most High.
- <sup>10</sup> Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,  
    but establish the righteous; \*  
    for you test the mind and heart,  
    O righteous God.