

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET DANIEL (6:10-16)**

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and

Persians, which cannot be revoked." Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the

Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed." Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!"

*Reader.* The Word of the Lord.

## **PSALM 124**

<sup>1</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*

let Israel now say;

<sup>2</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*

when enemies rose up against us;

<sup>3</sup> Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*

in their fierce anger toward us;

<sup>4</sup> Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*

and the torrent gone over us;

<sup>5</sup> Then would the raging waters \*

have gone right over us.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD! \*

he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*

the maker of heaven and earth.