

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 6. 19-23,25-28

¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king of Babylon got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰ When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?'

²¹ Daniel then said to the king, 'O king, live for ever! ²² My God sent angels and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before the Lord; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.' ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: 'May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For the Lord is the living God,
enduring for ever.

God's kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and God's dominion has no end.

²⁷ God delivers and rescues,
God works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth;
for God has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions.'

²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. Amen.

We are listening, O God; **Speak to us!**