

**A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES 24:20-21**

Then the spirit of the Lord took possession of Zechariah; he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you." But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## **PSALM 3**

<sup>1</sup> Lord, how many adversaries I have! How many there are who rise up against me!

<sup>2</sup> How many there are who say of me, "There is no help for him in his God."

<sup>3</sup> But you, O Lord, are a shield about me; you are my glory, the one who lifts up my head.

<sup>4</sup> I call upon the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill.

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and go to sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

<sup>6</sup> I do not fear the multitude of people who set themselves against me all around.

<sup>7</sup> Rise up, O Lord, set me free, O my God; surely, you will strike all my enemies across the face, you will break the teeth of the wicked.

<sup>8</sup> Deliverance belongs to the Lord. Your blessing be upon your people.