

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 28 1-10



Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them;  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.  
Psalm 91:14

## **Praising:**

Then let us sit beneath his cross,  
and gladly catch the healing  
stream,  
all things for him account but  
loss,  
and give up all our hearts to him;  
of nothing think or speak beside:  
My Lord, my Love is crucified.

## **Reading:**

Acts 28:1-10  
Paul washes up on Malta

The islanders of Malta welcome their unexpected guests warmly and generously. Their curiosity is first aroused when Paul is bitten by the viper. Initially they take this as a sign of judgment on Paul, that although he has escaped a watery grave, he must be guilty of some serious crime like murder. This assessment is reversed as it becomes clear that the viper has

left Paul unharmed. Ready now to hail Paul as divine, the leading local official Publius extends his hospitality to the visitors. This affords Paul the opportunity to pray and minister healing to Publius' sick father and, once word spreads, to many of the other islanders who are ill. This time, reports of healings seem to take the place of the more familiar reports of Paul's proclaiming and preaching. The latter is probably implied by the former.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Make us Lord into a people of welcome

- ready to be as generous and open-hearted to others as Christ has been to us
- ready to acknowledge before the Father the pain and hurt that only he can heal
- ready to trust in the loving provision of the Spirit when every other strength fails us

Father: it's only as I try to pass on your love that I discover its power to heal, restore and transform – in my own life and in the lives of those you have given me to love for you. Amen

## **Doing:**