

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 6 8-15



They draw near that in malice persecute me, who are far from your law.
You, O Lord, are near at hand, and all your commandments are true.
Psalm 119:150-151

Praising:

Jesus Christ is risen, God the
Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord
alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all
our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now
receive our prayer.

Reading:

Acts 6:8-15
Stephen stands accused

In spite of his call to the serving
ministry of deacon, it was
obviously easier to arrest
Stephen than to argue with him.
Thrust suddenly before the full
dogmatic rigour of the Jewish
Sanhedrin, no one would blame
Stephen for toning things down
slightly, tempering what at first
hearing might possibly have
sounded a little impetuous. What

will he say? To the mix of Jews
accusing Stephen, two things
were particularly precious. The
Temple and the Temple alone
was the place where sacrifice
could be offered and God could
be truly worshipped. The Law
was their framework for relating
to and understanding God; not a
jot or tittle of it could ever be
changed. If Stephen was
spreading sedition on either of
these fronts, there was nothing
else for it: he had to be stopped.

Listening:

Praying:

Draw close Lord to those who will
stand accused today of being
Christians

- grant them the peace that
comes only from the loving
presence of Christ
- reassure them of your
everlasting care, whatever
threats or menaces they face
- shine through them, that those
in judgment may see your light
and truth

Father: to follow Christ is to be
challenged for doing so. Thank
you, Lord, that the choice of
walking away is always there.
Forgive me for the times when I
have taken it. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 22 April 2016