Where's Your Chair?

Acts 19 28-41

I will exalt you O Lord, because you have raised me up
and have not let my foes triumph over me.
Psalm 30:1

Praising:

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage
take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy and shall
break
in blessings on your head.

Reading:

Acts 19:28-41
The riot at Ephesus

The temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Cities and peoples were sometimes honoured with the title of temple keeper to a god, so there was a lot at stake for Ephesus and its residents. Paul's travelling companions are the first to be rounded up. Paul's instinctive reaction is to go to their aid, but the disciples feel he needs their protection. The Jews push forward their own representative Alexander, but in the end it takes the town clerk finally to bring order to the chaos: Ephesus's status as temple keeper of Artemis remains intact; the men Demetrius and the silversmiths have accosted are entirely blameless; and should they wish to bring legal charges against anyone they remain entirely free to do so. The only offence committed so far, is the rioting itself.

Listening:

Praying:

Help us remember Lord

- those believers whose Christian faith leaves them exposed and in danger
- those who suffer victimisation and discrimination for following Jesus
- those Christians who bear witness in places openly hostile to the Gospel

Father: show me why certain people are so antagonistic towards the name and cause of Christ, and show me ways of proving to them, that Christ loves them all the same. Amen

Doing: