

Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul.

**<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.

**<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**<sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.**

<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

**<sup>8</sup> the Lord gives sight to the blind,  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup> The Lord reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.**

**John 12: 27-36a**

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up<sup>6</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. <sup>36</sup> Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.

Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup>

Psalm 5: 1-7

Listen to my words, Lord,  
consider my lament.

**<sup>2</sup> Hear my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
for to you I pray.** <sup>3</sup> In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;  
in the morning I lay my requests before you  
and wait expectantly.

**<sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;  
with you, evil people are not welcome.**

<sup>5</sup> The arrogant cannot stand in your presence.  
You hate all who do wrong;

**<sup>6</sup> you destroy those who tell lies.  
The bloodthirsty and deceitful  
you, Lord, detest.**

<sup>7</sup> But I, by your great love,  
can come into your house;  
in reverence I bow down  
toward your holy temple.

### Acts 13: 44-the end

<sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you<sup>1</sup> may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. <sup>51</sup> So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

#### Psalm 119: 1- 11

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—**

<sup>3</sup> they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.

<sup>4</sup> **You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.**

<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!

<sup>6</sup> **Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.**

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.

<sup>8</sup> **I will obey your decrees;**

**do not utterly forsake me.**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> **I seek you with all my heart;**

**do not let me stray from your commands.**

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.

### Acts 14: 8-23

<sup>8</sup> In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup> When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup> “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” <sup>18</sup> Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. <sup>19</sup> Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

<sup>21</sup> They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. <sup>23</sup> Paul and Barnabas

appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their .

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September

### Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?  
Who may live on your holy mountain?

<sup>2</sup> **The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbour,  
and casts no slur on others;

<sup>4</sup> **who despises a vile person  
but honours those who fear the Lord;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,  
and does not change their mind;**

<sup>5</sup> who lends money to the poor without interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.

### Acts 15: 1-21

<sup>15</sup> Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup>The church sent them on their way, and as they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were

welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon<sup>[a]</sup> has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> "After this I will return

and rebuild David's fallen tent .Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'

<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

## Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

**<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice<sup>[b]</sup> goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**

**In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

**<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

**<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

**<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from wilful sins;  
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.

**<sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

## Acts 15: 36- 16:5

<sup>36</sup> Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**16** Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup> As they travelled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.