

**Monday 26th April ( Mark the Evangelist )**

**Psalm 37;23-end**

<sup>23</sup> The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;

<sup>24</sup> **though he may stumble, he will not fall,  
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.**

<sup>25</sup> I was young and now I am old yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread.

<sup>26</sup> **They are always generous and lend freely;  
their children will be a blessing.**

<sup>27</sup> Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

<sup>28</sup> **For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.**

**Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed<sup>Ⓜ</sup>;  
the offspring of the wicked will perish.**

<sup>29</sup> The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.

<sup>30</sup> **The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,  
and their tongues speak what is just.**

<sup>31</sup> The law of their God is in their hearts; their feet do not slip.

<sup>32</sup> **The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,  
intent on putting them to death;**

<sup>33</sup> but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked  
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

<sup>34</sup> **Hope in the LORD and keep his way.**

**He will exalt you to inherit the land;  
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.**

<sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked and ruthless man  
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,

<sup>36</sup> **but he soon passed away and was no more;  
though I looked for him, he could not be found.**

<sup>37</sup> Consider the blameless, observe the upright;  
a future awaits those who seek peace.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

<sup>38</sup> **But all sinners will be destroyed;  
there will be no future<sup>Ⓜ</sup> for the wicked.**

<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup> **The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the  
wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.**

**Acts 12;25-13;13**

***Barnabas and Saul Sent Off***

<sup>25</sup> When Barnabas and Saul from<sup>Ⓜ</sup> Jerusalem, taking with them John, also  
called Mark.

**13** <sup>1</sup> Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and  
teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who  
had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were  
worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me  
Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> So after  
they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent  
them off.

***On Cyprus***

<sup>4</sup> The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to  
Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis,  
they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with  
them as their helper.

<sup>6</sup> They travelled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There  
they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup> who was  
an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent  
man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of  
God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed  
them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. <sup>9</sup> Then Saul, who was  
also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and  
said, <sup>10</sup> "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is  
right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop  
perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now the hand of the Lord is  
against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the  
light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about,  
seeking someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> When the proconsul saw  
what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about  
the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in  
Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem  
had finished their mission, they returned

## Tuesday 27th April

### Psalm 48

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,  
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

**<sup>2</sup> Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth,  
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,  
the city of the Great King.**

<sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.

**<sup>4</sup> When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,**

<sup>5</sup> they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

**<sup>6</sup> Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labour.**

<sup>7</sup> You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.

**<sup>8</sup> As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD Almighty,  
in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever.**

<sup>9</sup> Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.

**<sup>10</sup> Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with righteousness.**

<sup>11</sup> Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments.

**<sup>12</sup> Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers,**

<sup>13</sup> consider well her ramparts, view her citadels,  
that you may tell of them to the next generation.

**<sup>14</sup> For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even to the end**

### Ephesians 4; 17-end

#### *Instructions for Christian Living*

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in

Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin"<sup>[d]</sup>: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## Wednesday 28th April

### Psalm 135

Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD;

praise him, you servants of the LORD,

**<sup>2</sup> you who minister in the house of the LORD,  
in the courts of the house of our God.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.

**<sup>4</sup> For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own,  
Israel to be his treasured possession.**

<sup>5</sup> I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

**<sup>6</sup> The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth,  
in the seas and all their depths.**

<sup>7</sup> He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

**<sup>8</sup> He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
the firstborn of people and animals.**

<sup>9</sup> He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt,  
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

**<sup>10</sup> He struck down many nations and killed mighty kings—**

<sup>11</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan,  
and all the kings of Canaan—

**<sup>12</sup> and he gave their land as an inheritance,  
an inheritance to his people Israel.**

<sup>13</sup> Your name, LORD, endures forever,  
your renown, LORD, through all generations.

**<sup>14</sup> For the LORD will vindicate his people  
and have compassion on his servants.**

<sup>15</sup> The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands.

**<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.**

<sup>17</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths.

**<sup>18</sup> Those who make them will be like them,  
and so will all who trust in them.**

<sup>19</sup> All you Israelites, praise the LORD; house of Aaron, praise the LORD;

**<sup>20</sup> house of Levi, praise the LORD;  
you who fear him, praise the LORD.**

<sup>21</sup> Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD.

### **Ephesians 5; 1-14**

<sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's

wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

### **Thursday 29th April**

#### **Psalm 57**

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

**<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.**

<sup>3</sup> He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me—God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

**<sup>4</sup> I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—  
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.**

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

**<sup>6</sup> They spread a net for my feet—I was bowed down in distress.**

**They dug a pit in my path— but they have fallen into it themselves.**

<sup>7</sup> My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music.

**<sup>8</sup> Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.**

<sup>9</sup> I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.

**<sup>10</sup> For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**

<sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.

## **Ephesians 5; 15-end**

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Instructions for Christian Households***

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[b]</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband

## **Friday 29th April**

### **Psalm 33**

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.

<sup>4</sup> **For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

<sup>6</sup> **By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**

<sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> **Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.**

<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.**

<sup>11</sup> But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

<sup>12</sup> **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.**

<sup>13</sup> From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind;

<sup>14</sup> **from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—**

<sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

<sup>16</sup> **No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.**

<sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

<sup>18</sup> **But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,**

<sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death  
and keep them alive in famine.

<sup>20</sup> **We wait in hope for the LORD;  
he is our help and our shield.**

<sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.

<sup>22</sup> **May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
even as we put our hope in you.**

### **Ephesians 6; 1-9**

**6** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honour your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—  
<sup>3</sup>“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

<sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup>Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup>Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup>because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup>And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with him.