

Monday 27th September

Psalm 71

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**²In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.**

³Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

**⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

⁵For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.

**⁶From my birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my
mother's womb. I will ever praise you.**

⁷I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge.

⁸My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendour all day long.

⁹Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

**¹⁰For my enemies speak against me;
those who wait to kill me conspire together.**

¹¹They say, 'God has forsaken him; pursue him and seize him,
for no one will rescue him.'

¹²Do not be far from me, my God; come quickly, God, to help me.

¹³May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me
be covered with scorn and disgrace.

¹⁴As for me, I shall always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

¹⁵My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day
long –though I know not how to relate them all.

**¹⁶I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD;
I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.**

¹⁷Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds.

**¹⁸Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.**

¹⁹Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens,
you who have done great things. Who is like you, God?

**²⁰Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will
restore my life again; from the depths of the earth
you will again bring me up.**

²¹You will increase my honour and comfort me once more.

**²²I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, my God;
I will sing praise to you with the lyre, Holy One of Israel.**

²³My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you –
I whom you have delivered.

**²⁴My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long, for those who
wanted to harm me have been put to shame and confusion.**

Mark 14:1-11

14 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ² 'But not during the festival,' they said, 'or the people may riot.'

³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Tuesday 28th September

Psalm 73

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

² **But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.**

³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ **They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.**

⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.

⁶ **Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.**

⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.

⁸ **They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.**

⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.

¹⁰ **Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.**

¹¹ They say, 'How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?'

¹² **This is what the wicked are like –
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.**

¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴ **All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.**

¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

¹⁶ **When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply**

¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

¹⁸ **Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.**

¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

²⁰ **They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.**

²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

²² **I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.**

²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴ **You guide me with your counsel,
and afterwards you will take me into glory.**

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶ **My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion for ever.**

²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸ **But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD
my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

Mark 14: 12-25

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.'

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me.'

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, 'Surely you don't mean me?'

²⁰ 'It is one of the Twelve,' he replied, 'one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.'

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.'

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them. ²⁵ 'Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Wednesday 29th September

Psalm 34

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

² I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

³ Glorify the LORD with me: let us exalt his name together.

**⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.**

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.

**⁶ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.**

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

**⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**

⁹ Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

**¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹² Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,

¹³ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.

¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

**¹⁶ but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.**

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

**¹⁸ The LORD is close to the broken-hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;

²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

²¹ Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

**²² The LORD will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

Mark 14:26-42

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

²⁷ 'You will all fall away,' Jesus told them, 'for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.”

²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.'

²⁹ Peter declared, 'Even if all fall away, I will not.'

³⁰ 'Truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'today – yes, tonight – before the cock crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.'

³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' And all the others said the same.

Gethsemane

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them. 'Stay here and keep watch.'

³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ 'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'

³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Simon,' he said to Peter, 'are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?

³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'

Thursday 30th September

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² **Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ **praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,**

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.**

Praise the LORD.

Mark 14:43-52

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.'⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ 'Am I leading a rebellion,' said Jesus, 'that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?' ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.'

⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, ⁵² he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Friday 1st October

Psalm 55

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

² **hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught**

³ because of what my enemy is saying, because of the threats of the wicked; for they bring down suffering on me and assail me in their anger.

⁴ **My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me.**

⁵ Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.

⁶ **I said, 'Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.**

⁷ I would flee far away and stay in the desert;

⁸ **I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm.'**

⁹ Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words,
for I see violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰ **Day and night they prowl about on its walls;
malice and abuse are within it.**

¹¹ Destructive forces are at work in the city;
threats and lies never leave its streets.

¹² **If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising
against me, I could hide.**

¹³ But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,

¹⁴ **with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God,
as we walked about among the worshippers.**

¹⁵ Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the realm of the dead, for evil finds lodging among them.

¹⁶ **As for me, I call to God, and the LORD saves me.**

¹⁷ Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

¹⁸ **He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me,
even though many oppose me.**

¹⁹ God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change –
he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.

²⁰ **My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.**

²¹ His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

²² **Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let
the righteous be shaken.**

²³ But you, God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of decay; the bloodthirsty and deceitful will not live out half their days.

But as for me, I trust in you.

Mark 14: 53-65

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.

⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands."' ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?' ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?'

⁶² 'I am,' said Jesus. 'And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. 'Why do we need any more witnesses?' he asked. ⁶⁴ 'You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?'

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, 'Prophecy!' And the guards took him and beat him.

Saturday 2nd October

Psalm 76

God is renowned in Judah; in Israel his name is great.

² His tent is in Salem, is dwelling-place in Zion.

³ There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.

⁴ You are radiant with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game.

⁵ The valiant lie plundered, they sleep their last sleep; not one of the warriors can lift his hands.

⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob, both horse and chariot lie still.

⁷ It is you alone who are to be feared.

Who can stand before you when you are angry?

⁸ From heaven you pronounced judgment,
and the land feared and was quiet –

⁹ when you, God, rose up to judge, to save all the afflicted of the land.

¹⁰ Surely your wrath against mankind brings you praise,
and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.

¹¹ Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfil them; let all the neighbouring lands bring gifts to the One to be feared.

¹² He breaks the spirit of rulers; he is feared by the kings of the earth.

Mark 14:66-end

Peter disowns Jesus

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

'You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,' she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. 'I don't know or understand what you're talking about,' he said, and went out into the entrance.

⁶⁹ When the servant-girl saw him there, she said again to those standing round them, 'This fellow is one of them.' ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, 'Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.'

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, 'I don't know this man you're talking about.'

⁷² Immediately the cock crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: 'Before the cock crows twice you will disown me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

