

Monday 25th October

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

**² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither –whatever they do prospers.

**⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

John 17:1-5

Jesus prays to be glorified

¹⁷ After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed:

‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Tuesday 26th October

Psalm 5

Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament.

² Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

³ In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

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

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

**⁶ you destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, LORD, detest.**

⁷ But I, by your great love, can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down towards your holy temple.

**⁸ Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies –
make your way straight before me.**

⁹ Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice.
Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies.

**¹⁰ Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall.
Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.**

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread
your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

**¹² Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favour as with a shield.**

John 17:6-19

Jesus prays for his disciples

⁶ ‘I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ ‘I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Wednesday 27th October

Psalm 119:1-32

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

² Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart –

³ they do no wrong but follow his ways.

⁴ You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.

⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

⁶ Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

⁸ I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

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

¹² Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.

¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

¹⁶ I delight in your decrees; ill not neglect your word.

¹⁷ Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

¹⁹ I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.

²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.

²¹ You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,
those who stray from your commands.

²² Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes.

²³ Though rulers sit together and slander me,
your servant will meditate on your decrees.

²⁴ Your statutes are my delight; they are my counsellors.

²⁵ I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

**²⁶ I gave an account of my ways and you answered me;
teach me your decrees.**

²⁷ Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,
that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.

**²⁸ My soul is weary with sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word.**

²⁹ Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law.

³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.

³¹ I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame.

**³² I run in the path of your commands,
for you have broadened my understanding.**

John 17:20-end

Jesus prays for all believers

²⁰ 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – ²³ I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'

Thursday 28th October

Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.

**² For great is his love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.**

Praise the LORD.

John 18:1-17

¹⁸ When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, 'Who is it you want?'

⁵ 'Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied.

'I am he,' Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

⁶ When Jesus said, 'I am he,' they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, 'Who is it you want?'

'Jesus of Nazareth,' they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.' ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: 'I have not lost one of those you gave me.'

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?'

Friday 29th October

Psalm 19

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

² Day after day they pour forth speech;

night after night they reveal knowledge.

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

⁴ Yet their voice 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.

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

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

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

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

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever.

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

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

**¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

John 18:12-27

² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant-girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ 'You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?' she asked Peter. He replied, 'I am not.'

¹⁸ It was cold, and the servants and officials stood round a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ 'I have spoken openly to the world,' Jesus replied. 'I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.'

²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials near by slapped him in the face. 'Is this the way you answer the high priest?' he demanded.

²³ 'If I said something wrong,' Jesus replied, 'testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?' ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, 'You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?' He denied it, saying, 'I am not.'

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, 'Didn't I see you with him in the garden?' ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a cock began to crow.

Saturday 30th October

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD for ever.

John 18: 28-end

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, 'What charges are you bringing against this man?'

³⁰ 'If he were not a criminal,' they replied, 'we would not have handed him over to you.'

³¹ Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.'

'But we have no right to execute anyone,' they objected. ³² This took place to fulfil what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

³⁴ 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

³⁵ 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

³⁶ Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

³⁷ 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

³⁸ 'What is truth?' retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, 'I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release "the king of the Jews"?''

⁴⁰ They shouted back, 'No, not him! Give us Barabbas!' Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.