

Monday 23rd May

Psalm 65

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour,

the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

⁶ who formed the mountains by your power,

having armed yourself with strength,

⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

and the turmoil of the nations.

⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns,

where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of

God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,

for so you have ordained it.

¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;

you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty,

and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;

the hills are clothed with gladness.

¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;

they shout for joy and sing.

Luke 6;27-38

²⁷ ‘But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who

hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. ²⁹ If

someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes

your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks

you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to

others as you would have them do to you.

³² ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love

those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what

credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from

whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to

sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to

them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your

reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to

you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be

poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.’

Tuesday 24th May

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’

³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Luke 6;39-end

³⁹ He also told them this parable: ‘Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is

fully trained will be like their teacher. ⁴¹ ‘Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?’

⁴² How can you say to your brother, ‘‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

⁴³ ‘No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

⁴⁶ ‘Why do you call me, ‘‘Lord, Lord,’’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.’

Wednesday 25th May

Psalm 132

LORD, remember David and all his self-denial.

² He swore an oath to the LORD, he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³ ‘I will not enter my house or go to my bed,

⁴ I will allow no sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,

⁵ till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.’

⁶ We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:

⁷ ‘Let us go to his dwelling-place, let us worship at his footstool, saying,

**⁸ “Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.**

⁹ May your priests be clothed with your righteousness;
may your faithful people sing for joy.”

¹⁰ For the sake of your servant David, do not reject your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath he will not revoke:

‘One of your own descendants I will place on your throne.

**¹² If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons shall sit on your throne for ever and ever.’**

¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling, saying,

**¹⁴ ‘This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.**

¹⁵ I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor I will satisfy with food.

**¹⁶ I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and her faithful people shall ever sing for joy.**

¹⁷ ‘Here I will make a horn grow for David
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.

**¹⁸ I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but his head shall be adorned with a radiant crown.’**

Luke 7:1-10

⁷ When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was ill and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, ‘This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.’ ⁶ So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under

authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go”, and he goes; and that one, “Come”, and he comes. I say to my servant, “Do this”, and he does it.’

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, ‘I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.’ ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Thursday 26th May *Ascension Day*

Psalm 110

The LORD says to my lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’

**² The LORD will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion, saying,
‘Rule in the midst of your enemies!’**

³ Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendour, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb.

⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

**⁶ He will judge nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.**

⁷ He will drink from a brook along the way; and so he will lift his head high.

Hebrews 7:11-end

Jesus like Melchizedek

¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood – and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood – why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: ‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’ ¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

‘The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest for ever.”’

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect for ever.

Friday 27th May

Psalm 81

Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

² **Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.**

³ Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,

and when the moon is full, on the day of our Feast;

⁴ **this is a decree for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.**

⁵ When God went out against Egypt, he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

⁶ **'I removed the burden from their shoulders;
their hands were set free from the basket.**

⁷ In your distress you called and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

⁸ **Hear me, my people, and I will warn you –
if you would only listen to me, Israel!**

⁹ You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.

¹⁰ **I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt.
open wide your mouth and I will fill it.**

¹¹ 'But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me.

¹² **So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.**

¹³ 'If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways,

¹⁴ **how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!**

¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last for ever.

¹⁶ **But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.'**

Luke 7;11-17

¹¹ Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.'

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!' ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. 'A great prophet has appeared among us,' they said. 'God has come to help his people.' ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

Saturday 28th May

Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

² For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

³ He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

⁴ He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

⁵ God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

⁸ God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

⁹ The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

Luke 7;18-35

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, 'John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"'

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, illnesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, 'Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?

²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those

who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”^[b]

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.’

²⁹ (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptised by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptised by John.)

³¹ Jesus went on to say, ‘To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

“‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not cry.’”

³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ ³⁵ But wisdom is proved right by all her children.’