

Monday 9th May

Psalm 103

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits –

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

⁸ the LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger for ever;

**¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

**¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear
him, and his righteousness with their children's children –

¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

**²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.**

²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

²² Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Luke 2;41-end

The boy Jesus at the temple

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking

he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

⁴⁹ 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Tuesday 9th May

Psalm 48

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

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

³ God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.

⁴ When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,
⁵ they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

⁶ Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labour.

⁷ You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.

**⁸ 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 for ever.**

⁹ Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.

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

¹¹ Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion, go round her, count her towers,

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

**¹⁴ For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.**

Luke 3;1-14

John the Baptist prepares the way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracónitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰ ‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’

¹³ ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’

He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

Wednesday 11th May

Psalm 135

Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD;
praise him, you servants of the LORD,

**² you who minister in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.**

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

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

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

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

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

⁸ He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals.

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

¹⁰ He struck down many nations and killed mighty kings –

¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kings of Canaan –

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

¹³ Your name, LORD, endures for ever,
your renown, LORD, through all generations.

**¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.**

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

¹⁶ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.

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

¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

¹⁹ All you Israelites, praise the LORD; house of Aaron, praise the LORD;

²⁰ house of Levi, praise the LORD; you who fear him, praise the LORD.

²¹ Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD.

Luke 3;15-22

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with ^[b] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with ^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

¹⁹ But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, ²⁰ Herod added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

²¹ When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’

Thursday 12th May

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

² **Let Israel say: ‘His love endures for ever.’**

³ Let the house of Aaron say: ‘His love endures for ever.’

⁴ **Let those who fear the LORD say: ‘His love endures for ever.’**

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place.

⁶ **The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.**

What can mere mortals do to me?

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.

⁸ **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.**

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

¹⁰ **All the nations surrounded me,**

but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹¹ They surrounded me on every side,

but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹² **They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.**

¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ **The LORD is my strength and my defence, he has become my salvation.**

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

‘The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!’

¹⁶ **The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;**

the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ **The LORD has chastened me severely,**

but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;

I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.**

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² **The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.**

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ **You are my God, and I will praise you;**

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

Luke 4;1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’

⁴ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone.”’

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.’ ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.’

⁸ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”’

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down from here.

¹⁰ For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;” ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’

¹² Jesus answered, ‘It is said: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Friday 13th May

Psalm 33

¹ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

² **Praise the LORD with the harp;**

make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

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

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

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

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

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

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

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

**10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.**

¹¹ But the plans of the LORD stand firm for ever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

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

¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind;

14 from his dwelling-place he watches all who live on earth –

¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

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

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

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

¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

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

Luke 4'14-30

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, 'Surely you will quote this proverb to me: "Physician, heal yourself!" And you will tell me, "Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum."' "

²⁴ 'Truly I tell you,' he continued, 'no prophet is accepted in his home town. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed – only Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Saturday 14th May

Psalm 16

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,
'They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.'

⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

⁵ LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep my eyes always on the LORD.

With him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Luke 4; 31-37

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ 'Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!' ³⁵ 'Be quiet!' Jesus said sternly. 'Come out of him!' Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. ³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, 'What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!' ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

