

## Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June

### Psalm 71

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,  
my confidence since my youth.

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

<sup>7</sup> I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge.

**<sup>8</sup> My mouth is filled with your praise,  
declaring your splendour all day long.**

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

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

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

**<sup>12</sup> Do not be far from me, my God; come quickly, God, to help me.**

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

**<sup>14</sup> As for me, I shall always have hope; I will praise you more and more.**

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

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

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

**<sup>18</sup> Even 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.**

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

**<sup>20</sup> Though 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.**

<sup>21</sup> You will increase my honour and comfort me once more.

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

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

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

### Romans 11;25-end

<sup>25</sup> I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so  
that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part  
until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, <sup>26</sup> and in this way<sup>[e]</sup> all  
Israel will be saved. As it is written:

'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from  
Jacob.<sup>27</sup> And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.'

<sup>28</sup> As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as  
far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,  
<sup>29</sup> for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you who were at one  
time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their  
disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now become disobedient in order that  
they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. <sup>32</sup> For  
God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy  
on them all.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and <sup>[i]</sup> knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

<sup>34</sup> 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?'

<sup>35</sup> 'Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?'

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and for him are all things.  
To him be the glory for ever! Amen.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Psalm 73**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**<sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.**

<sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens;  
they are not plagued by human ills.

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.**

<sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity;  
their evil imaginations have no limits.

**<sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice;  
with arrogance they threaten oppression.**

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

**<sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.**

<sup>11</sup> They say, 'How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?'

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

<sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure  
and have washed my hands in innocence.

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

<sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

**<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply**

<sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

**<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.**

<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

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

<sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

**<sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.**

<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

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

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

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

<sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish;  
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

**<sup>28</sup> 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.**

**Romans 12;1-8**

*A living sacrifice*

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*Humble service in the body of Christ*

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

### Psalm 77

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me.

**<sup>2</sup>When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted.**

<sup>3</sup> I remembered you, God, and I groaned;  
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.

**<sup>4</sup>You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak.**

<sup>5</sup> I thought about the former days, the years of long ago;

**<sup>6</sup>I remembered my songs in the night.**

**My heart meditated and my spirit asked:**

<sup>7</sup> 'Will the Lord reject for ever? Will he never show his favour again?

**<sup>8</sup>Has his unfailing love vanished for ever?**

**Has his promise failed for all time?**

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be merciful?

Has he in anger withheld his compassion?'

**<sup>10</sup>Then I thought, 'To this I will appeal:**

**the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.**

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

**<sup>12</sup>I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.'**

<sup>13</sup> Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?

**<sup>14</sup>You are the God who performs miracles;**

**you display your power among the peoples.**

<sup>15</sup> With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**<sup>16</sup>The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed;  
the very depths were convulsed.**

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder;  
your arrows flashed back and forth.

**<sup>18</sup>Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up  
the world; the earth trembled and quaked.**

<sup>19</sup> Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters,  
though your footprints were not seen.

**<sup>20</sup>You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

### Romans 12;9-end

#### *Love in action*

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

<sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June (*Birth of John the Baptist*)

### Psalm 50

The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

**<sup>2</sup>From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.**

<sup>3</sup> Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him,  
and around him a tempest rages.

**<sup>4</sup>He summons the heavens above,  
and the earth, that he may judge his people:**

<sup>5</sup> 'Gather to me this consecrated people,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.'

**<sup>6</sup>And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice.**

<sup>7</sup> 'Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel:  
I am God, your God.'

**<sup>8</sup> I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices  
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.**  
<sup>9</sup> I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens,  
**<sup>10</sup> for every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.**  
<sup>11</sup> I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.  
**<sup>12</sup> If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.**  
<sup>13</sup> Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?  
**<sup>14</sup> ‘Sacrifice thank-offerings to God, fulfil your vows to the Most High,  
<sup>15</sup> and call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honour me.’  
<sup>16</sup> But to the wicked person, God says ‘What right have you to recite my  
laws or take my covenant on your lips?  
<sup>17</sup> You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you.  
<sup>18</sup> When you see a thief, you join with him;  
you throw in your lot with adulterers.  
<sup>19</sup> You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit.  
<sup>20</sup> You sit and testify against your brother  
and slander your own mother’s son.  
<sup>21</sup> When you did these things and I kept silent, you thought I was exactly  
like you. But I now arraign you and set my accusations before you.  
<sup>22</sup> ‘Consider this, you who forget God,  
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:  
<sup>23</sup> those who sacrifice thank-offerings honour me,  
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.’**

### **Luke 3;1-17**

#### ***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 Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around

the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.”  
<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.’  
<sup>10</sup> ‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked.  
<sup>11</sup> John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’  
<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’  
<sup>13</sup> ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.  
<sup>14</sup> 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.’  
<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with 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 the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> 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.’

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June

### Psalm 55

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

**<sup>2</sup> hear me and answer me.**

**My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.

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

<sup>7</sup> I would flee far away and stay in the desert;

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,

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

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

**<sup>16</sup> As for me, I call to God, and the LORD saves me.**

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

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

<sup>19</sup> 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.

**<sup>20</sup> My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.**

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

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

<sup>23</sup> 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.

### Romans 13;8-end

#### Love fulfils the law

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

#### The day is near

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Optional**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**Psalm 76**

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

<sup>2</sup> His tent is in Salem,  
his dwelling-place in Zion.

<sup>3</sup> There he broke the flashing arrows,  
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.

<sup>4</sup> You are radiant with light,  
more majestic than mountains rich with game.

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

<sup>6</sup> At your rebuke, God of Jacob,  
both horse and chariot lie still.

<sup>7</sup> It is you alone who are to be feared.  
Who can stand before you when you are angry?

<sup>8</sup> From heaven you pronounced judgment,  
and the land feared and was quiet –

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup> He breaks the spirit of rulers;  
he is feared by the kings of the earth.

**Romans 14;1-12**

**The weak and the strong**

<sup>14</sup> Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup> One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup> Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written:

“As surely as I live,” says the Lord,  
“Every knee will bow before me;  
every tongue will acknowledge God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

