

Monday 27th June

Psalm 44

We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.

² With your hand you drove out the nations and planted our ancestors; you crushed the peoples and made our ancestors flourish.

³ It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.

⁴ You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.

⁶ I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory;

⁷ but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.

⁸ In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.

⁹ But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies.

¹⁰ You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us.

¹¹ You gave us up to be devoured like sheep and have scattered us among the nations.

¹² You sold your people for a pittance, gaining nothing from their sale.

¹³ You have made us a reproach to our neighbours, the scorn and derision of those around us.

¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the nations; the peoples shake their heads at us.

¹⁵ I live in disgrace all day long, and my face is covered with shame

¹⁶ at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me, because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.

¹⁷ All this came upon us, though we had not forgotten you; we had not been false to your covenant.

¹⁸ Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.

¹⁹ But you crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals; you covered us over with deep darkness.

²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,

²¹ would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?

²² Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

²³ Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.

²⁴ Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?

²⁵ We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

²⁶ Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.

Luke 13;1-9

Repent or perish

13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.’

⁶ Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, “For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?”’

⁸ ““Sir,” the man replied, “leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig round it and fertilise it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”’

Tuesday 28th June

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.

Luke13;10-21

Jesus heals a crippled woman on the Sabbath

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, ‘Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.’ ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. ¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, ‘There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.’
¹⁵ The Lord answered him, ‘You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?’ ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?’
¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast

¹⁸ Then Jesus asked, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?’ ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.’
²⁰ Again he asked, ‘What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?’ ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’

Wednesday 29th June

Psalm 71

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

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

³ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁸ **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.

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

²⁰ **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.

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

²² **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.

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

²⁴ **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.

Luke 13;22-end

The narrow door

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, ‘Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?’

He said to them, ²⁴ ‘Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, “Sir, open the door for us.”

‘But he will answer, “I don’t know you or where you come from.”

²⁶ ‘Then you will say, “We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.”

²⁷ ‘But he will reply, “I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!”

²⁸ ‘There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.’

Jesus’ sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, ‘Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.’

³² He replied, ‘Go and tell that fox, “I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.”

³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

Thursday 30th June

Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.

I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

² I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.

³ He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me –
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

**⁴ I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts –
men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.**

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

⁶ They spread a net for my feet –I was bowed down in distress.

They dug a pit in my path –but they have fallen into it themselves.

⁷ My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast;

I will sing and make music.

⁸ Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

⁹ I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;

I will sing of you among the peoples.

¹⁰ For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

Luke 14;1-11

Jesus at a Pharisee’s house

¹⁴ One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?’ ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.

⁵ Then he asked them, ‘If one of you has a child^[a] or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?’ ⁶ And they had nothing to say.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ ‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, “Give this person your seat.” Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, “Friend, move up to a better place.” Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Friday 1st July

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

**¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my
Saviour, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings
offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Luke 14:12-24

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not
invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich
neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But
when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and
you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the
resurrection of the righteous.’

The parable of the great banquet

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed
is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’

¹⁶ Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many
guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had
been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.”

¹⁸ ‘But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, “I have just bought a
field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.”

¹⁹ ‘Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to
try them out. Please excuse me.”

²⁰ ‘Still another said, “I have just got married, so I can’t come.”

²¹ ‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the
house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets
and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the
lame.”

²² ““Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still
room.”

²³ ‘Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and
compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of
those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”’

Saturday 2nd July

Psalm 68

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.

² May you blow them away like smoke – as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God.

³ But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him – his name is the LORD.

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

⁶ God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

⁷ When you, God, went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.

⁹ You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance.

¹⁰ Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the
poor.

¹¹ The Lord announces the word,
and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng:
¹² ‘Kings and armies flee in haste; the women at home divide the plunder.
¹³ Even while you sleep among the sheepfolds, the wings of my dove are
sheathed with silver, its feathers with shining gold.’
¹⁴ When the Almighty scattered the kings in the land,
it was like snow fallen on Mount Zalmon.
¹⁵ Mount Bashan, majestic mountain, Mount Bashan, rugged mountain,
¹⁶ why gaze in envy, you rugged mountain, at the mountain where God chooses
to reign, where the LORD himself will dwell for ever?
¹⁷ The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands;
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.
¹⁸ When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from
people, even from the rebellious –that you, LORD God, might dwell there.
¹⁹ Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens.
²⁰ Our God is a God who saves;
from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.
²¹ Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies,
the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.
²² The Lord says, ‘I will bring them from Bashan;
I will bring them from the depths of the sea,
²³ that your feet may wade in the blood of your foes,
while the tongues of your dogs have their share.’
²⁴ Your procession, God, has come into view,
the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.
²⁵ In front are the singers, after them the musicians;
with them are the young women playing the tambourines.
²⁶ Praise God in the great congregation;
praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.
²⁷ There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there the great throng of
Judah’s princes, and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.
²⁸ Summon your power, God;
show us your strength, our God, as you have done before.
²⁹ Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring you gifts.
³⁰ Rebuke the beast among the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the
nations. Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver. Scatter the nations who
delight in war.
³¹ Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God.
³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord,
³³ to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,
who thunders with mighty voice.

³⁴ Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel,
whose power is in the heavens.

³⁵ You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and
strength to his people. Praise be to God!

Luke 14;25-end

The cost of being a disciple

²⁵ Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ ‘If
anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children,
brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my
disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my
disciple.

²⁸ ‘Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and
estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you
lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule
you, ³⁰ saying, “This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.”

³¹ ‘Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first
sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the
one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a
delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot
be my disciples.

³⁴ ‘Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is
fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; it is thrown out.

‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.’