

Monday 19th April

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

**⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

**⁶ Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

**¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

**¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Ephesians 1; 1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Tuesday 20th April

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;**

⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,

⁶ **with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;**

⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Ephesians 1; 15-end

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Wednesday 21st April

Psalm 34

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

² **I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

³ Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

⁴ **I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.**

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

⁶ **This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;**

he saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

⁸ **Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**

⁹ Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

¹⁰ **The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹² **Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,**

¹³ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.

¹⁴ **Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.**

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

¹⁶ **but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.**

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The LORD is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;

²⁰ **he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.**

²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

²² **The LORD will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

Ephesians 2; 1-10

Made Alive in Christ

² As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we

were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Thursday 22nd April

Psalm 136

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*

² **Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.***

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*

⁴ **to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever.***

⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever.*

⁶ **who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever.***

⁷ who made the great lights—*His love endures forever.*

⁸ **the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever.***

⁹ the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever.*

¹⁰ **to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt *His love endures forever.***

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them *His love endures forever.*

¹² **with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; *His love endures forever.***

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea^[a] asunder *His love endures forever.*

¹⁴ **and brought Israel through the midst of it, *His love endures forever.***

¹⁵ but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

His love endures forever.

¹⁶ **to him who led his people through the wilderness;**

His love endures forever.

¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings, *His love endures forever.*

¹⁸ **and killed mighty kings—*His love endures forever.***

¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites *His love endures forever.*

²⁰ **and Og king of Bashan—*His love endures forever.***

²¹ and gave their land as an inheritance, *His love endures forever.*

²² **an inheritance to his servant Israel. *His love endures forever.***

²³ He remembered us in our low estate *His love endures forever.*

²⁴ **and freed us from our enemies. *His love endures forever.***

²⁵ He gives food to every creature. *His love endures forever.*

²⁶ **Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.***

Ephesians 2; 11-end

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Friday 23rd April (*St Georges Day*)

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 toward 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.**

Ephesians 6; 10-20

The Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be

able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.