

Monday 27th November

Psalm 80

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might; come and save us.

³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

**⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smoulder
against the prayers of your people?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

**⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours,
and our enemies mock us.**

⁷ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

**⁸ You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.

**¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

¹¹ Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

**¹² Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?**

¹³ Boars from the forest ravage it, and insects from the fields feed on it.

¹⁴ Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!

Watch over this vine,

¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

**¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.**

¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

**¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.**

¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Matthew 9;18-34

Jesus raises a dead girl and heals a sick woman

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, ‘My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.’ ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.’

²² Jesus turned and saw her. ‘Take heart, daughter,’ he said, ‘your faith has healed you.’ And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and the people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, ‘Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.’ But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

Jesus heals the blind and the mute

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David!’

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you’; ³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, ‘See that no one knows about this.’ ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

³² While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. ³³ And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.’

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, ‘It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.’

Tuesday 28th November

Psalm 97

The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

² **Clouds and thick darkness surround him;**

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

⁴ **His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ **The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.**

⁷ All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols –
worship him, all you gods!

⁸ **Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.**

⁹ For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ **Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his
faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

¹¹ Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

¹² **Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.**

Matthew 9;35-10;15

The workers are few

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’

Jesus sends out the Twelve

¹⁰ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James

son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹ ‘Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Wednesday 29th November

Psalm 112

Praise the LORD. Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in his commands.

² **Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures for ever.

⁴ **Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.**

⁵ Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ **Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered for ever.**

⁷ They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

⁹ They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures for ever; their horn will be lifted high in honour.

¹⁰ The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

Matthew 10;16-33

¹⁶ 'I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ 'The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ 'So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² 'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Thursday 30th November (*Andrew the Apostle*)

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.

John 12;20-32

Jesus predicts his death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’

³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

OR

Matthew 10:34-end

³⁴ ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“‘a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law –

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’”[c]

³⁷ ‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ ‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.

⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.’

Friday 1st December

Psalm 139

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

² **You know when I sit and when I rise;**

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ **Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ **If I go up to the heavens, you are there;**

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ **even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

¹¹ If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,’

¹² **even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³ For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you.**

¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked!

Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

²⁰ **They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.**

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,

and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

²² **I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.**

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;

test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ **See if there is any offensive way in me,**

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 11:2-19

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’

⁴ Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the

deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, 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? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

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

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear.

¹⁶ 'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon.” ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.'

Saturday 2nd December

Psalm 145

I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

² **Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴ **One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.**

⁵ They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty –
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

⁶ **They tell of the power of your awesome works –
and I will proclaim your great deeds.**

⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.**

⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

¹⁰ **All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.**

¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,

¹² **so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.**

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴ **The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.**

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ **You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.**

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.**

¹⁹ He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ **The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.**

²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Matthew 11;20-end

Woe on unrepentant towns

²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ²¹ ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.’

The Father revealed in the Son

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ ‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’