

Morning Prayer Readings & Psalms w/c 16th November

Monday, 16 November Margaret of Scotland/ Edmund Rich

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, ♦ a very present help in trouble;

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, ♦
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

³Though the waters rage and swell, ♦ and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, ♦
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; ♦ God shall help her at the break of day.

⁶The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦ the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come and behold the works of the Lord, ♦ what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

⁹He makes wars to cease in all the world; ♦
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.

¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God; ♦ I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦ the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

God of Jacob, when the earth shakes and the nations are in uproar, speak, and let the storm be still; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 10

And I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. He held a little scroll open in his hand. Setting his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, he gave a great shout, like a lion roaring. And when he shouted, the seven thunders sounded. And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.' Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and the land raised his right hand to heaven

and swore by him who lives for ever and ever,
who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it: 'There will be no more delay, but in the days when the seventh angel is to blow his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as he announced to his servants the prophets.'

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, 'Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.' So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, 'Take it, and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth.' So I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

Then they said to me, 'You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.'

The Collect

God, the ruler of all, who called your servant Margaret to an earthly throne
and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people
that she might advance your heavenly kingdom:

mercifully grant that we who commemorate her example may be fruitful in good works
and attain to the glorious crown of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Tuesday, 17 November Hugh

Psalm 48 Refrain: We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God.

¹Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, ♦ in the city of our God.

²His holy mountain is fair and lifted high, ♦ the joy of all the earth.

³On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place, ♦ stands the city of the great king.

⁴In her palaces God has shown himself ♦ to be a sure refuge. *R*

⁵For behold, the kings of the earth assembled ♦ and swept forward together.

⁶They saw, and were dumbfounded; ♦ dismayed, they fled in terror.

⁷Trembling seized them there; they writhed like a woman in labour, ♦
as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

⁸As we had heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God: ♦
God has established her for ever. *R*

⁹We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, ♦ in the midst of your temple.

¹⁰As with your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; ♦
your right hand is full of justice.

¹¹Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad, ♦ because of your judgements, O Lord.

¹²Walk about Zion and go round about her; count all her towers; ♦
consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels,

¹³That you may tell those who come after that such is our God for ever and ever. ♦
It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

Father of lights, raise us with Christ to your eternal city, that, with kings and nations, we may wait in the midst of your temple and see your glory for ever and ever.

Revelation 11.1-14

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, 'Come and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, wearing sackcloth.'

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes; anyone who wants to harm them must be killed in this manner. They have authority to shut the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that is prophetically called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days members of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb; and the inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to the inhabitants of the earth.

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here!' And they went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watched them. At that moment there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe has passed. The third woe is coming very soon.

The Collect

O God, who endowed your servant Hugh with a wise and cheerful boldness
and taught him to commend to earthly rulers the discipline of a holy life:

give us grace like him to be bold in the service of the gospel, putting our confidence in Christ alone,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Wednesday, 18 November Elizabeth of Hungary

Psalm 56 Refrain: In God I trust, and will not fear.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, for they trample over me; ♦ all day long they assault and oppress me.

²My adversaries trample over me all the day long; ♦ many are they that make proud war against me.

³In the day of my fear I put my trust in you, ♦ in God whose word I praise.

⁴In God I trust, and will not fear, ♦ for what can flesh do to me? *R*

⁵All day long they wound me with words; ♦ their every thought is to do me evil.

⁶They stir up trouble; they lie in wait; ♦ marking my steps, they seek my life.

⁷Shall they escape for all their wickedness? ♦ In anger, O God, cast the peoples down.

⁸You have counted up my groaning; put my tears into your bottle; ♦ are they not written in your book? *R*

⁹Then shall my enemies turn back on the day when I call upon you; ♦ this I know, for God is on my side.

¹⁰In God whose word I praise, in the Lord whose word I praise, ♦
in God I trust and will not fear: what can flesh do to me?

¹¹To you, O God, will I fulfil my vows; ♦ to you will I present my offerings of thanks,

¹²For you will deliver my soul from death and my feet from falling, ♦
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

Faithful God, your deliverance is nearer than we know; free us from fear and help us to find courage in your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 11.15-end

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.'

Then the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshipped God, singing,

'We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty,

who are and who were, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for judging the dead,

for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints and all who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth.'

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

The Collect

Lord God,

who taught Elizabeth of Hungary to recognize and reverence Christ in the poor of this world:

by her example strengthen us to love and serve the afflicted and the needy

and so to honour your Son, the servant king, who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thursday, 19 November Hilda/Mechtild

Psalm 61 Refrain: You are my refuge, O God, a strong tower against the enemy.

¹Hear my crying, O God, ♦ and listen to my prayer.

²From the end of the earth I call to you with fainting heart; ♦ O set me on the rock that is higher than I.

³For you are my refuge, ♦ a strong tower against the enemy.

⁴Let me dwell in your tent for ever ♦ and take refuge under the cover of your wings. *R*

⁵For you, O God, will hear my vows; ♦ you will grant the request of those who fear your name.

⁶You will add length of days to the life of the king, ♦ that his years may endure throughout all generations.

⁷May he sit enthroned before God for ever; ♦ may steadfast love and truth watch over him.

⁸So will I always sing praise to your name, ♦ and day by day fulfil my vows.

Risen Christ, as you knew the discipline of suffering and the victory that brings us salvation, so grant us your presence in our weakness and a place in your unending kingdom now and for evermore.

Revelation 12

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from his mouth the serpent poured water like a river after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman; it opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus. Then the dragon took his stand on the sand of the seashore.

The Collect

Eternal God,

who made the abbess Hilda to shine like a jewel in our land and through her holiness and leadership blessed your Church with new life and unity:

help us, like her, to yearn for the gospel of Christ and to reconcile those who are divided;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Friday, 20 November Edmund / Priscilla Lydia Sellon

Psalm 63 Refrain: *My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God.*

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦ my soul is athirst for you.

²My flesh also faints for you, ♦ as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

³So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦ that I might behold your power and your glory.

⁴Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦ and so my lips shall praise you.

⁵I will bless you as long as I live ♦ and lift up my hands in your name. *R*

⁶My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, ♦ and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,

⁷When I remember you upon my bed ♦ and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

⁸For you have been my helper ♦ and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.

⁹My soul clings to you; ♦ your right hand shall hold me fast. *R*

¹⁰But those who seek my soul to destroy it ♦ shall go down to the depths of the earth;

¹¹Let them fall by the edge of the sword ♦ and become a portion for jackals.

¹²But the king shall rejoice in God; all those who swear by him shall be glad, ♦
for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

To you we come, radiant Lord, the goal of all our desiring, beyond all earthly beauty; gentle protector, strong deliverer, in the night you are our confidence; from first light be our joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 13.1-10

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. They worshipped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshipped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

Let anyone who has an ear listen:

If you are to be taken captive, into captivity you go;

if you kill with the sword, with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

The Collect

Eternal God,

whose servant Edmund kept faith to the end, both with you and with his people,

and glorified you by his death: grant us such steadfastness of faith that, with the noble army of martyrs,

we may come to enjoy the fullness of the resurrection life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.