

# Morning Prayer Readings and Psalms w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> November

## Monday 23 November: Clement

**Psalm 92** *Refrain: You, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.*

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord ♦ and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>To tell of your love early in the morning ♦ and of your faithfulness in the night-time,

<sup>3</sup>Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp, ♦ and to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts, ♦ and I sing aloud at the works of your hands.

<sup>5</sup>O Lord, how glorious are your works! ♦ Your thoughts are very deep. *R*

<sup>6</sup>The senseless do not know, ♦ nor do fools understand,

<sup>7</sup>That though the wicked sprout like grass ♦ and all the workers of iniquity flourish,

<sup>8</sup>It is only to be destroyed for ever; ♦ but you, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.

<sup>9</sup>For lo, your enemies, O Lord, lo, your enemies shall perish, ♦  
and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

<sup>10</sup>But my horn you have exalted like the horns of wild oxen; ♦ I am anointed with fresh oil.

<sup>11</sup>My eyes will look down on my foes; ♦

my ears shall hear the ruin of the evildoers who rise up against me. *R*

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, ♦ and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>Such as are planted in the house of the Lord ♦ shall flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup>They shall still bear fruit in old age; ♦ they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;

<sup>15</sup>That they may show that the Lord is true; ♦

he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

*Give us the music of your praise, Lord, morning, noon and night, that our lives may be fruitful and our lips confess you as the true and only God.*

### Revelation 14.1-13

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless. Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgement has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.'

Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'

Then another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice, 'Those who worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or on their hands, they will also drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and they will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image and for anyone who receives the mark of its name.'

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them.'

## Tuesday, 24 November

**Psalm 97** *Refrain: You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; ♦ let the multitude of the isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>Clouds and darkness are round about him; ♦ righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him ♦ and burns up his enemies on every side. *R*

<sup>4</sup>His lightnings lit up the world; ♦ the earth saw it and trembled.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, ♦  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup>The heavens declared his righteousness ♦ and all the peoples have seen his glory. *R*

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. ♦  
Bow down before him, all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, ♦ because of your judgements, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; ♦ you are exalted far above all gods. *R*

<sup>10</sup>The Lord loves those who hate evil; ♦  
he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light has sprung up for the righteous ♦ and joy for the true of heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, ♦ and give thanks to his holy name.

*Most high and holy God, enthroned in fire and light, burn away the dross of our lives and kindle in us the fire of your love, that our lives may reveal the light and life we find in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Revelation 14.14-15.end**

Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand! Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, 'Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.' So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.' So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and he threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse's bridle, for a distance of about two hundred miles.

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended.

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

'Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations! Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgements have been revealed.'

After this I looked, and the temple of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, and out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues, robed in pure bright linen, with golden sashes across their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever; and the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended.

## Wednesday, 25 November Catherine of Alexandria/Isaac Watts

### Psalm 110

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, ♦ until I make your enemies your footstool.'

<sup>2</sup>May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power; ♦ rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.

<sup>3</sup>Noble are you on this day of your birth; ♦

on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn the dew of your new birth is upon you.' *R*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord has sworn and will not retract: ♦ 'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'

<sup>5</sup>The king at your right hand, O Lord, ♦ shall smite down kings in the day of his wrath. *R*

<sup>6</sup>In all his majesty, he shall judge among the nations, ♦ smiting heads over all the wide earth.

<sup>7</sup>He shall drink from the brook beside the way; ♦ therefore shall he lift high his head.

*Lord Jesus, divine Son and eternal priest, inspire us with the confidence of your final conquest of evil, and grant that daily on our way we may drink of the brook of your eternal life and so find courage against all adversities; for your mercy's sake.*

### Revelation 16.1-11

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, 'Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.'

So the first angel went and poured his bowl on the earth, and a foul and painful sore came on those who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped its image.

The second angel poured his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing in the sea died.

The third angel poured his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say,

'You are just, O Holy One, who are and were, for you have judged these things; because they shed the blood of saints and prophets, you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!'

And I heard the altar respond,

'Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, your judgements are true and just!'

The fourth angel poured his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire; they were scorched by the fierce heat, but they cursed the name of God, who had authority over these plagues, and they did not repent and give him glory.

The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness; people gnawed their tongues in agony, and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, and they did not repent of their deeds.

## Thursday, 26 November

**Psalm 125** *Refrain: Glorious things are spoken of you, Zion, city of our God.*

<sup>1</sup>Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, ♦  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

<sup>2</sup>As the hills stand about Jerusalem, ♦  
so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

<sup>3</sup>The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the righteous, ♦  
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.

<sup>4</sup>Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, ♦ and to those who are true of heart.

<sup>5</sup>Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; ♦  
but let there be peace upon Israel.

*God of power, you are strong to save and you never fail those who trust in you; keep us under your protection and spread abroad your reign of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Revelation 16.12-end**

The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up in order to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw three foul spirits like frogs coming from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast, and from the mouth of the false prophet. These are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ('See, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and is clothed, not going about naked and exposed to shame.') And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Harmagedon.

The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!' And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a violent earthquake, such as had not occurred since people were upon the earth, so violent was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered great Babylon and gave her the wine-cup of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found; and huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, dropped from heaven on people, until they cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.

## Friday, 27 November

**Psalm 139 Refrain:** *Search me out, O God, and know my heart.*

- <sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup>You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦ and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup>For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦ but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup>You encompass me behind and before ♦ and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦ so high that I cannot attain it. *R*
- <sup>6</sup>Where can I go then from your spirit? ♦ Or where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>7</sup>If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ♦ if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- <sup>8</sup>If I take the wings of the morning ♦ and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- <sup>9</sup>Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦ your right hand hold me fast.
- <sup>10</sup>If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ♦ and the light around me turn to night,'
- <sup>11</sup>Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; ♦  
darkness and light to you are both alike. *R*
- <sup>12</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦ you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup>I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦ marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- <sup>14</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, ♦ when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup>Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦ already in your book were all my members written,
- <sup>16</sup>As day by day they were fashioned ♦ when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>17</sup>How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦ How great is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup>If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, ♦ and at the end, I am still in your presence. *R*
- <sup>19</sup>O that you would slay the wicked, O God, ♦ that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!
- <sup>20</sup>They speak against you with wicked intent; ♦ your enemies take up your name for evil.
- <sup>21</sup>Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you? ♦ Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?
- <sup>22</sup>I hate them with a perfect hatred; ♦ they have become my own enemies also.
- <sup>23</sup>Search me out, O God, and know my heart; ♦ try me and examine my thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup>See if there is any way of wickedness in me ♦ and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Creator God, may every breath we take be for your glory, may every footstep show you as our way, that, trusting in your presence in this world, we may, beyond this life, still be with you where you are alive and reign for ever and ever.*

## Revelation 17

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgement of the great whore who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the inhabitants of the earth have become drunk.' So he carried me away in the spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication; and on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: 'Babylon the great, mother of whores and of earth's abominations.' And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly amazed. But the angel said to me, 'Why are you so amazed? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to ascend from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the inhabitants of the earth, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will be amazed when they see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

'This calls for a mind that has wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; also, they are seven kings, of whom five have fallen, one is living, and the other has not yet come;

and when he comes, he must remain for only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are united in yielding their power and authority to the beast; they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.'

And he said to me, 'The waters that you saw, where the whore is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the whore; they will make her desolate and naked; they will devour her flesh and burn her up with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.'