

Morning Prayer Psalms and Readings w/c 19th July

The Collect Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.**

Monday, 19 July: Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina

Psalm 1 Refrain: *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*

¹Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, ♦
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

²Their delight is in the law of the Lord ♦ and they meditate on his law day and night.

³Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, ♦
whatever they do, it shall prosper. *R*

⁴As for the wicked, it is not so with them; ♦ they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, ♦
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, ♦ but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous; for your mercy's sake.

2 Corinthians 11.1-15

I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by its cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. I think that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. I may be untrained in speech, but not in knowledge; certainly in every way and in all things we have made this evident to you.

Did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed God's good news to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for my needs were supplied by the friends who came from Macedonia. So I refrained and will continue to refrain from burdening you in any way. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boast of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

And what I do I will also continue to do, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want an opportunity to be recognized as our equals in what they boast about. For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds.

The Collect Lord of eternity, creator of all things, in your Son Jesus Christ you open for us the way to resurrection that we may enjoy your bountiful goodness: may we who celebrate your servants Gregory and Macrina press onwards in faith to your boundless love and ever wonder at the miracle of your presence among us; 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, 20 July 2021: Margaret of Antioch/Bartolomé de las Casas,

Psalm 5 Refrain: You, O Lord, will bless the righteous.

¹Give ear to my words, O Lord; ♦ consider my lamentation.

²Hearken to the voice of my crying, my King and my God, ♦ for to you I make my prayer.

³In the morning, Lord, you will hear my voice; ♦ early in the morning I make my appeal to you, and look up.

⁴For you are the God who takes no pleasure in wickedness; ♦ no evil can dwell with you. *R*

⁵The boastful cannot stand in your sight; ♦ you hate all those that work wickedness.

⁶You destroy those who speak lies; ♦ the bloodthirsty and deceitful the Lord will abhor.

⁷But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy, I will come into your house; ♦

I will bow down towards your holy temple in awe of you. *R*

⁸Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness, because of my enemies; ♦ make your way straight before my face.

⁹For there is no truth in their mouth, in their heart is destruction, ♦

their throat is an open sepulchre, and they flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰Punish them, O God; ♦ let them fall through their own devices.

¹¹Because of their many transgressions cast them out, ♦ for they have rebelled against you. *R*

¹²But let all who take refuge in you be glad; ♦ let them sing out their joy for ever.

¹³You will shelter them, ♦ so that those who love your name may exult in you.

¹⁴For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous; ♦ and with your favour you will defend them as with a shield.

Lord, protect us from the deceit of flattering tongues and lying lips; give us words of life which speak your truth and bless your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 11.16-end

I repeat, let no one think that I am a fool; but if you do, then accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. What I am saying in regard to this boastful confidence, I am saying not with the Lord's authority, but as a fool; since many boast according to human standards, I will also boast. For you gladly put up with fools, being wise yourselves! For you put up with it when someone makes slaves of you, or preys upon you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or gives you a slap in the face. To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman—I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant?

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he for ever!) knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas set a guard on the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

Wednesday, 21 July

Psalm 119.1-32 Refrain: *Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.*

¹Blessed are those whose way is pure, ♦ who walk in the law of the Lord.

²Blessed are those who keep his testimonies ♦ and seek him with their whole heart,

³Those who do no wickedness, ♦ but walk in his ways.

⁴You, O Lord, have charged ♦ that we should diligently keep your commandments. *R*

⁵O that my ways were made so direct ♦ that I might keep your statutes.

⁶Then should I not be put to shame, ♦ because I have regard for all your commandments.

⁷I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, ♦ when I have learned your righteous judgements.

⁸I will keep your statutes; ♦ O forsake me not utterly. *R*

⁹How shall young people cleanse their way ♦ to keep themselves according to your word?

¹⁰With my whole heart have I sought you; ♦ O let me not go astray from your commandments.

¹¹Your words have I hidden within my heart, ♦ that I should not sin against you.

¹²Blessed are you, O Lord; ♦ O teach me your statutes. *R*

¹³With my lips have I been telling ♦ of all the judgements of your mouth.

¹⁴I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies ♦ than in all manner of riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments ♦ and contemplate your ways.

¹⁶My delight shall be in your statutes ♦ and I will not forget your word. *R*

¹⁷O do good to your servant that I may live, ♦ and so shall I keep your word.

¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may see ♦ the wonders of your law.

¹⁹I am a stranger upon earth; ♦ hide not your commandments from me.

²⁰My soul is consumed at all times ♦ with fervent longing for your judgements. *R*

²¹You have rebuked the arrogant; ♦ cursed are those who stray from your commandments.

²²Turn from me shame and rebuke, ♦ for I have kept your testimonies.

²³Rulers also sit and speak against me, ♦ but your servant meditates on your statutes.

²⁴For your testimonies are my delight; ♦ they are my faithful counsellors. *R*

²⁵My soul cleaves to the dust; ♦ O give me life according to your word.

²⁶I have acknowledged my ways and you have answered me; ♦ O teach me your statutes.

²⁷Make me understand the way of your commandments, ♦
and so shall I meditate on your wondrous works.

²⁸My soul melts away in tears of sorrow; ♦ raise me up according to your word. *R*

²⁹Take from me the way of falsehood; ♦ be gracious to me through your law.

³⁰I have chosen the way of truth ♦ and your judgements have I laid before me.

³¹I hold fast to your testimonies; ♦ O Lord, let me not be put to shame .

³²I will run the way of your commandments, ♦ when you have set my heart at liberty.

Faithful God, let your word be the treasure of our hearts, that we may delight in your truth and walk in the glorious liberty of your Son Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 12

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my

weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. I have been a fool! You forced me to it. Indeed you should have been the ones commending me, for I am not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, signs and wonders and mighty works. How have you been worse off than the other churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

Here I am, ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, because I do not want what is yours but you; for children ought not to lay up for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be spent for you. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? Let it be assumed that I did not burden you. Nevertheless (you say) since I was crafty, I took you in by deceit. Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves with the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves before you? We are speaking in Christ before God. Everything we do, beloved, is for the sake of building you up. For I fear that when I come, I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish; I fear that there may perhaps be quarrelling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. I fear that when I come again, my God may humble me before you, and that I may have to mourn over many who previously sinned and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and licentiousness that they have practised.

Thursday, 22 July: Mary Magdalene

Psalm 30 Refrain: *You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.*

¹I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up ♦ and have not let my foes triumph over me.

²O Lord my God, I cried out to you ♦ and you have healed me.

³You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; ♦

you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

⁴Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; ♦ give thanks to his holy name.

⁵For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. ♦

Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. *R*

⁶In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. ♦

You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'

⁷Then you hid your face from me ♦ and I was utterly dismayed.

⁸To you, O Lord, I cried; ♦ to the Lord I made my supplication:

⁹'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? ♦

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; ♦ O Lord, be my helper.' *R*

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing; ♦

you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

¹²Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; ♦ O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Luke 8.1-3

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

The Collect Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Friday, 23 July: Bridget of Sweden

Psalm 17 Refrain: *Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand.*

¹Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider my complaint; ♦ listen to my prayer, which comes not from lying lips.

²Let my vindication come forth from your presence; ♦ let your eyes behold what is right.

³Weigh my heart, examine me by night, ♦ refine me, and you will find no impurity in me. *R*

⁴My mouth does not trespass for earthly rewards; ♦ I have heeded the words of your lips.

⁵My footsteps hold fast in the ways of your commandments; ♦ my feet have not stumbled in your paths. *R*

⁶I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; ♦ incline your ear to me, and listen to my words.

⁷Show me your marvellous loving-kindness, ♦

O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise up against them.

⁸Keep me as the apple of your eye; ♦ hide me under the shadow of your wings,

⁹From the wicked who assault me, ♦ from my enemies who surround me to take away my life. *R*

¹⁰They have closed their heart to pity ♦ and their mouth speaks proud things.

¹¹They press me hard, they surround me on every side, ♦ watching how they may cast me to the ground,

¹²Like a lion that is greedy for its prey, ♦ like a young lion lurking in secret places. *R*

¹³Arise, Lord; confront them and cast them down; ♦ deliver me from the wicked by your sword.

¹⁴Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand ♦ from those whose portion in life is unending,

¹⁵Whose bellies you fill with your treasure, ♦

who are well supplied with children and leave their wealth to their little ones.

¹⁶As for me, I shall see your face in righteousness; ♦

when I awake and behold your likeness, I shall be satisfied.

Generous Lord, deliver us from all envious thoughts, and when we are tempted by the desire for wealth, let us see your face; for your abundance is enough to clothe our lack; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1.1-11

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.