

Morning Prayer Psalms & Readings w/c 29th November 2021

Prayer of Thanksgiving during Advent: Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Collect for this week: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Monday, 29 November: Day of Intercession & Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church

Psalm 50 Refrain: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

¹The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken ♦ and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; ♦ our God comes and will not keep silence.

³Consuming fire goes out before him ♦ and a mighty tempest stirs about him.

⁴He calls the heaven above, ♦ and the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵'Gather to me my faithful, ♦ who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'

⁶Let the heavens declare his righteousness, ♦ for God himself is judge. *R*

⁷Hear, O my people, and I will speak: ♦ 'I will testify against you, O Israel; for I am God, your God.

⁸'I will not reprove you for your sacrifices, ♦ for your burnt offerings are always before me.

⁹'I will take no bull out of your house, ♦ nor he-goat out of your folds,

¹⁰For all the beasts of the forest are mine, ♦ the cattle upon a thousand hills.

¹¹'I know every bird of the mountains ♦ and the insect of the field is mine.

¹²'If I were hungry, I would not tell you, ♦ for the whole world is mine and all that fills it.

¹³'Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, ♦ or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴'Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦ and fulfil your vows to God Most High.

¹⁵'Call upon me in the day of trouble; ♦ I will deliver you and you shall honour me.' *R*

¹⁶But to the wicked, says God: ♦ 'Why do you recite my statutes and take my covenant upon your lips,

¹⁷Since you refuse to be disciplined ♦ and have cast my words behind you?

¹⁸'When you saw a thief, you made friends with him ♦ and you threw in your lot with adulterers.

¹⁹'You have loosed your lips for evil ♦ and harnessed your tongue to deceit.

²⁰'You sit and speak evil of your brother; ♦ you slander your own mother's son.

²¹'These things have you done, and should I keep silence? ♦

Did you think that I am even such a one as yourself?

²²'But no, I must reprove you, ♦ and set before your eyes the things that you have done.

²³'You that forget God, consider this well, ♦ lest I tear you apart and there is none to deliver you.

²⁴'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me ♦

and to those who keep my way will I show the salvation of God.'

Mighty God, dwelling in unapproachable light, forgive our vain attempts to appease you, and show us your full salvation in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Matthew 12.1-21 At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, 'Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?' so that they might accuse him. He said to them, 'Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.' Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

Tuesday, 30 November: Andrew the Apostle

Psalm 47 Refrain: *O sing praises to God, sing praises.*

¹Clap your hands together, all you peoples; ♦ O sing to God with shouts of joy.

²For the Lord Most High is to be feared; ♦ he is the great King over all the earth.

³He subdued the peoples under us ♦ and the nations under our feet.

⁴He has chosen our heritage for us, ♦ the pride of Jacob, whom he loves. *R*

⁵God has gone up with a merry noise, ♦ the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

⁶O sing praises to God, sing praises; ♦ sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is the King of all the earth; ♦ sing praises with all your skill. *R*

⁸God reigns over the nations; ♦ God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

⁹The nobles of the peoples are gathered together ♦ with the people of the God of Abraham.

¹⁰For the powers of the earth belong to God ♦ and he is very highly exalted.

As Christ was raised by your glory, O Father, so may we be raised to new life and rejoice to be called your children, both now and for ever.

John 12.20-32 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

The Collect: Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; 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.**

Wednesday, 1 December: Charles de Foucauld,

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.

Matthew 12.38-end Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, 'Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.' But he answered them, 'An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, but it finds none. Then it says, "I will return to my house from which I came." When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So will it be also with this evil generation.'

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

Thursday, 2 December

Psalm 42

¹As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦ so longs my soul for you, O God.

²My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦ when shall I come before the presence of God?

³My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

⁴Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦
how I went with the multitude and led the procession to the house of God,

⁵With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦ among those who kept holy day.

⁶*Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦ and why are you so disquieted within me?*

⁷*O put your trust in God; ♦ for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

⁸My soul is heavy within me; ♦
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.

⁹Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls; ♦ all your breakers and waves have gone over me.

¹⁰The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime; ♦
through the night his song will be with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

¹¹I say to God my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me, ♦
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?'

¹²As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me; ♦
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

¹³*Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? ♦ and why are you so disquieted within me?*

¹⁴*O put your trust in God; ♦ for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

Come, creator Spirit, source of life; sustain us when our hearts are heavy and our wells have run dry, for you are the Father's gift, with him who is our living water, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 13.1-23 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: "You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them." But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Friday, 3 December Francis Xavier

Psalm 25 Refrain: Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; ♦

let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦ but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

³Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦ and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦

for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.

⁵Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦ for they are from everlasting. *R*

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, ♦

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦ therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

⁸He will guide the humble in doing right ♦ and teach his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth ♦ to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. *R*

¹⁰For your name's sake, O Lord, ♦ be merciful to my sin, for it is great.

¹¹Who are those who fear the Lord? ♦ Them will he teach in the way that they should choose.

¹²Their soul shall dwell at ease ♦ and their offspring shall inherit the land.

¹³The hidden purpose of the Lord is for those who fear him ♦ and he will show them his covenant.

¹⁴My eyes are ever looking to the Lord, ♦ for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. *R*

¹⁵Turn to me and be gracious to me, ♦ for I am alone and brought very low.

¹⁶The sorrows of my heart have increased; ♦ O bring me out of my distress.

¹⁷Look upon my adversity and misery ♦ and forgive me all my sin.

¹⁸Look upon my enemies, for they are many ♦ and they bear a violent hatred against me.

¹⁹O keep my soul and deliver me; ♦ let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you.

²⁰Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, ♦ for my hope has been in you.

²¹Deliver Israel, O God, ♦ out of all his troubles.

Free us, God of mercy, from all that keeps us from you; relieve the misery of the anxious and the ashamed and fill us with the hope of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 13.24-43 Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' '

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.' Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'