

Morning Prayer Psalms and Readings w/c 4 July

Prayers of Thanksgiving Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all, to you be glory and praise for ever. You founded the earth in the beginning and the heavens are the work of your hands. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, and in these last days you have spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, your Spirit ever renew our lives and your praises ever be on our lips. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Collect Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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, 4 July Thomas the Apostle

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶The senseless do not know, ♦ nor do fools understand,

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

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

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

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

¹¹My eyes will look down on my foes; ♦
my ears shall hear the ruin of the evildoers who rise up against me. *R*

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

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

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

¹⁵That 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.

John 11.1-16 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

The Collect Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Tuesday 5th July

Psalm 73 Refrain: *In the Lord God have I made my refuge.*

¹Truly, God is loving to Israel, ♦ to those who are pure in heart.

²Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone; ♦ my steps had well-nigh slipped.

³For I was envious of the proud; ♦ I saw the wicked in such prosperity;

⁴For they suffer no pains ♦ and their bodies are sleek and sound;

⁵They come to no misfortune like other folk; ♦ nor are they plagued as others are;

⁶Therefore pride is their necklace ♦ and violence wraps them like a cloak.

⁷Their iniquity comes from within; ♦ the conceits of their hearts overflow. *R*

⁸They scoff, and speak only of evil; ♦ they talk of oppression from on high.

⁹They set their mouth against the heavens, ♦ and their tongue ranges round the earth;

¹⁰And so the people turn to them ♦ and find in them no fault.

¹¹They say, 'How should God know? ♦ Is there knowledge in the Most High?'

¹²Behold, these are the wicked; ♦ ever at ease, they increase their wealth.

¹³Is it in vain that I cleansed my heart ♦ and washed my hands in innocence?

¹⁴All day long have I been stricken ♦ and chastened every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, 'I will speak as they do,' ♦ I should have betrayed the generation of your children. *R*

¹⁶Then thought I to understand this, ♦ but it was too hard for me,

¹⁷Until I entered the sanctuary of God ♦ and understood the end of the wicked:

¹⁸How you set them in slippery places; ♦ you cast them down to destruction.

¹⁹How suddenly do they come to destruction, ♦ perish and come to a fearful end!

²⁰As with a dream when one awakes, ♦ so, Lord, when you arise you will despise their image.

²¹When my heart became embittered ♦ and I was pierced to the quick,

²²was but foolish and ignorant; ♦ I was like a brute beast in your presence. *R*

²³Yet I am always with you; ♦ you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴You will guide me with your counsel ♦ and afterwards receive me with glory.

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you? ♦ And there is nothing upon earth that I desire in comparison with you.

²⁶Though my flesh and my heart fail me, ♦ God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

²⁷Truly, those who forsake you will perish; ♦ you will put to silence the faithless who betray you.

²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God; ♦

in the Lord God have I made my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Holy God, may we find wisdom in your presence and set our hope not on uncertain riches but on the love that holds us to the end; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 15.11-end Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."'

Wednesday, 6 July: Thomas More and John Fisher

Psalm 77 Refrain:*In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord.*

¹I cry aloud to God; ♦ I cry aloud to God and he will hear me.

²In the day of my trouble I have sought the Lord; ♦

by night my hand is stretched out and does not tire; my soul refuses comfort.

³I think upon God and I groan; ♦ I ponder, and my spirit faints.

⁴You will not let my eyelids close; ♦ I am so troubled that I cannot speak. *R*

⁵I consider the days of old; ♦ I remember the years long past;

⁶I commune with my heart in the night; ♦ my spirit searches for understanding.

⁷Will the Lord cast us off for ever? ♦ Will he no more show us his favour?

⁸Has his loving mercy clean gone for ever? ♦ Has his promise come to an end for evermore?

⁹Has God forgotten to be gracious? ♦ Has he shut up his compassion in displeasure?

¹⁰And I said, 'My grief is this: ♦ that the right hand of the Most High has lost its strength.' *R*

¹¹I will remember the works of the Lord ♦ and call to mind your wonders of old time.

¹²I will meditate on all your works ♦ and ponder your mighty deeds.

¹³Your way, O God, is holy; ♦ who is so great a god as our God?

¹⁴You are the God who worked wonders ♦ and declared your power among the peoples.

¹⁵With a mighty arm you redeemed your people, ♦ the children of Jacob and Joseph. *R*

¹⁶The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and were afraid; ♦ the depths also were troubled.

¹⁷The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; ♦ your arrows flashed on every side;

¹⁸The voice of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the ground; ♦
the earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters, ♦ but your footsteps were not known.

²⁰You led your people like sheep ♦ by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

God our shepherd, you led us and saved us in times of old; do not forget your people in their troubles, but raise up your power to sustain the poor and helpless; for the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 16.1-18

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. So he said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.'

'The law and the prophets were in effect until John came; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is proclaimed, and everyone tries to enter it by force. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one stroke of a letter in the law to be dropped. 'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and whoever marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.'

Thursday, 7 July

Psalm 78.1-39* Refrain: *O Lord, how glorious are your works.*

¹Hear my teaching, O my people; ♦ incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable; ♦ I will pour forth mysteries from of old,

³Such as we have heard and known, ♦ which our forebears have told us.

⁴We will not hide from their children, but will recount to generations to come, ♦
the praises of the Lord and his power and the wonderful works he has done. *R*

⁵He laid a solemn charge on Jacob and made it a law in Israel, ♦
which he commanded them to teach their children,

⁶That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn, ♦
that they in turn might tell it to their children;

⁷So that they might put their trust in God ♦ and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments,

⁸And not be like their forebears, a stubborn and rebellious generation, ♦
a generation whose heart was not steadfast, and whose spirit was not faithful to God. *R*

⁹The people of Ephraim, armed with the bow, ♦ turned back in the day of battle;

¹⁰They did not keep the covenant of God ♦ and refused to walk in his law;

¹¹They forgot what he had done ♦ and the wonders he had shown them.

¹²For he did marvellous things in the sight of their forebears, ♦ in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. *R*

¹³He divided the sea and let them pass through; ♦ he made the waters stand still in a heap.

¹⁴He led them with a cloud by day ♦ and all the night through with a blaze of fire.

¹⁵He split the hard rocks in the wilderness ♦ and gave them drink as from the great deep.

¹⁶He brought streams out of the rock ♦ and made water gush out like rivers. *R*

¹⁷Yet for all this they sinned more against him ♦ and defied the Most High in the wilderness.

¹⁸They tested God in their hearts ♦ and demanded food for their craving.

¹⁹They spoke against God and said, ♦ ‘Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?’

²⁰He struck the rock indeed, so that the waters gushed out and the streams overflowed, ♦
but can he give bread or provide meat for his people?’ *R*

²¹When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; ♦
a fire was kindled against Jacob and his anger went out against Israel,

²²For they had no faith in God ♦ and put no trust in his saving help.

²³So he commanded the clouds above ♦ and opened the doors of heaven.

²⁴He rained down upon them manna to eat ♦ and gave them the grain of heaven.

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels; ♦ he sent them food in plenty. *R*

²⁶He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens ♦ and led out the south wind by his might.

²⁷He rained flesh upon them as thick as dust ♦ and winged fowl like the sand of the sea.

²⁸He let it fall in the midst of their camp ♦ and round about their tents.

²⁹So they ate and were well filled, ♦ for he gave them what they desired.

³⁰But they did not stop their craving; ♦ their food was still in their mouths,

³¹When the anger of God rose against them, ♦
and slew their strongest men and felled the flower of Israel. *R*

³²But for all this, they sinned yet more ♦ and put no faith in his wonderful works.

³³So he brought their days to an end like a breath ♦ and their years in sudden terror.

³⁴Whenever he slew them, they would seek him; ♦ they would repent and earnestly search for God.

³⁵They remembered that God was their rock ♦ and the Most High God their redeemer. *R*

³⁶Yet they did but flatter him with their mouth ♦ and dissembled with their tongue.

³⁷Their heart was not steadfast towards him, ♦ neither were they faithful to his covenant.

³⁸But he was so merciful that he forgave their misdeeds and did not destroy them; ♦
many a time he turned back his wrath and did not suffer his whole displeasure to be roused.

³⁹For he remembered that they were but flesh, ♦ a wind that passes by and does not return.

God our deliverer, as you led our ancestors through the wilderness, so lead us through the wilderness of this world, that we may be saved through Christ for ever.

Luke 16.19-end

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your

lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '

Friday, 8 July

Psalm 55 Refrain: *Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.*

- ¹Hear my prayer, O God; ♦ hide not yourself from my petition.
²Give heed to me and answer me; ♦ I am restless in my complaining.
³I am alarmed at the voice of the enemy ♦ and at the clamour of the wicked;
⁴For they would bring down evil upon me ♦ and are set against me in fury.
⁵My heart is disquieted within me, ♦ and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
⁶Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, ♦ and a horrible dread has overwhelmed me. *R*
⁷And I said: 'O that I had wings like a dove, ♦ for then would I fly away and be at rest.
⁸Then would I flee far away ♦ and make my lodging in the wilderness.
⁹I would make haste to escape ♦ from the stormy wind and tempest.'
¹⁰Confuse their tongues, O Lord, and divide them, ♦ for I have seen violence and strife in the city.
¹¹Day and night they go about on her walls; ♦ mischief and trouble are in her midst.
¹²Wickedness walks in her streets; ♦ oppression and guile never leave her squares. *R*
¹³For it was not an open enemy that reviled me, ♦ for then I could have borne it;
¹⁴Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself up against me, ♦ for then I would have hid myself from him.
¹⁵But it was even you, one like myself, ♦ my companion and my own familiar friend.
¹⁶We took sweet counsel together ♦ and walked with the multitude in the house of God.
¹⁷Let death come suddenly upon them; let them go down alive to the Pit; ♦
for wickedness inhabits their dwellings, their very hearts. *R*
¹⁸As for me, I will call upon God ♦ and the Lord will deliver me.
¹⁹In the evening and morning and at noonday I will pray and make my supplication, ♦
and he shall hear my voice.
²⁰He shall redeem my soul in peace from the battle waged against me, ♦ for many have come upon me.
²¹God, who is enthroned of old, will hear and bring them down; ♦
they will not repent, for they have no fear of God. *R*
²²My companion stretched out his hands against his friend ♦ and has broken his covenant;
²³His speech was softer than butter, though war was in his heart; ♦
his words were smoother than oil, yet are they naked swords.
²⁴Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you, ♦ and will not let the righteous fall for ever.
²⁵But those that are bloodthirsty and deceitful, O God, ♦ you will bring down to the pit of destruction.
²⁶They shall not live out half their days, ♦ but my trust shall be in you, O Lord.

Lord, in all times of fear and dread, grant that we may so cast our burdens upon you, that you may bear us on the holy wings of the Spirit to the stronghold of your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 17.1-10

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you. 'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"'