

Morning Prayer Psalms and Readings w/c 5th September

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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, 5 September

Psalm 98 Refrain: The Lord has made known his salvation.

¹Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦ for he has done marvellous things.

²His own right hand and his holy arm ♦ have won for him the victory.

³The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦ his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, ♦
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *R*

⁵Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦ break into singing and make music.

⁶Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦ with the lyre and the voice of melody.

⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦ sound praises before the Lord, the King. *R*

⁸Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦ the world and all that dwell upon it.

⁹Let the rivers clap their hands ♦

and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world ♦ and the peoples with equity.

Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations; tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation as you come among us to judge the earth; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Acts 8.26-end

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Tuesday, 6 September: Allen Gardiner

Psalm 106* Refrain: *The Lord remembered his covenant.*

- ¹Alleluia. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ♦ for his faithfulness endures for ever.
- ²Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord ♦ or show forth all his praise?
- ³Blessed are those who observe what is right ♦ and always do what is just.
- ⁴Remember me, O Lord, in the favour you bear for your people; ♦ visit me in the day of your salvation;
- ⁵That I may see the prosperity of your chosen and rejoice in the gladness of your people, ♦
and exult with your inheritance. *R*
- ⁶We have sinned like our forebears; ♦ we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- ⁷In Egypt they did not consider your wonders, nor remember the abundance of your faithful love; ♦
they rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.
- ⁸But he saved them for his name's sake, ♦ that he might make his power to be known.
- ⁹He rebuked the Red Sea and it was dried up; ♦
so he led them through the deep as through the wilderness.
- ¹⁰He saved them from the adversary's hand ♦ and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
- ¹¹As for those that troubled them, the waters overwhelmed them; ♦ there was not one of them left.
- ¹²Then they believed his words ♦ and sang aloud his praise. *R*
- ¹³But soon they forgot his deeds ♦ and would not wait for his counsel.
- ¹⁴A craving seized them in the wilderness, ♦ and they put God to the test in the desert.
- ¹⁵He gave them their desire, ♦ but sent a wasting sickness among them.
- ¹⁶They grew jealous of Moses in the camp ♦ and of Aaron, the holy one of the Lord.
- ¹⁷So the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan ♦ and covered the company of Abiram.
- ¹⁸A fire was kindled in their company; ♦ the flame burnt up the wicked. *R*
- ¹⁹They made a calf at Horeb ♦ and worshipped the molten image;
- ²⁰Thus they exchanged their glory ♦ for the image of an ox that feeds on hay.
- ²¹They forgot God their saviour, ♦ who had done such great things in Egypt,
- ²²Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham ♦ and fearful things at the Red Sea.
- ²³So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, ♦
to turn away his wrath from consuming them. *R*
- ²⁴Then they scorned the Promised Land ♦ and would not believe his word,
- ²⁵But murmured in their tents ♦ and would not heed the voice of the Lord.
- ²⁶So he lifted his hand against them ♦ and swore to overthrow them in the wilderness,
- ²⁷To disperse their descendants among the nations, ♦ and to scatter them throughout the lands. *R*
- ²⁸They joined themselves to the Baal of Peor ♦ and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.
- ²⁹They provoked him to anger with their evil deeds ♦ and a plague broke out among them.
- ³⁰Then Phinehas stood up and interceded ♦ and so the plague was stayed.
- ³¹This was counted to him for righteousness ♦ throughout all generations for ever.
- ³²They angered him also at the waters of Meribah, ♦ so that Moses suffered for their sake;
- ³³For they so embittered his spirit ♦ that he spoke rash words with his lips. *R*
- ³⁴They did not destroy the peoples ♦ as the Lord had commanded them.
- ³⁵They mingled with the nations ♦ and learned to follow their ways,
- ³⁶So that they worshipped their idols, ♦ which became to them a snare.
- ³⁷Their own sons and daughters ♦ they sacrificed to evil spirits.
- ³⁸They shed innocent blood, ♦ the blood of their sons and daughters,
- ³⁹Which they offered to the idols of Canaan, ♦ and the land was defiled with blood.
- ⁴⁰Thus were they polluted by their actions, ♦ and in their wanton deeds went whoring after other gods. *R*
- ⁴¹Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, ♦ and he abhorred his inheritance.
- ⁴²He gave them over to the hand of the nations, ♦ and those who hated them ruled over them.
- ⁴³So their enemies oppressed them ♦ and put them in subjection under their hand.
- ⁴⁴Many a time did he deliver them, but they rebelled through their own devices ♦
and were brought down through their wickedness.
- ⁴⁵Nevertheless, he saw their adversity, ♦ when he heard their lamentation.

⁴⁶He remembered his covenant with them ♦ and relented according to the greatness of his faithful love.

⁴⁷He made them also to be pitied ♦ by all who had taken them captive. *R*

⁴⁸Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, ♦
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

⁴⁹Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting and to everlasting; ♦
and let all the people say, Amen. Alleluia.

Holy God, when our memories blot out your kindness and we ignore your patient love, remember us, re-make us, and give to us poor sinners the rich inheritance of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 9.1-19a

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Wednesday, 7 September

Psalm 110 Refrain: *The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.*

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

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

³Noble 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*

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

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

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

⁷He 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; or your mercy's sake.

Acts 9.19b-31

For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Thursday, 8 September: The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Psalm 113 Refrain: *From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised.*

¹Alleluia. Give praise, you servants of the Lord, ♦ O praise the name of the Lord.

²Blessed be the name of the Lord, ♦ from this time forth and for evermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its setting ♦ let the name of the Lord be praised.

⁴The Lord is high above all nations ♦ and his glory above the heavens. *R*

⁵Who is like the Lord our God, that has his throne so high, ♦
yet humbles himself to behold the things of heaven and earth?

⁶He raises the poor from the dust ♦ and lifts the needy from the ashes,

⁷To set them with princes, ♦ with the princes of his people.

⁸He gives the barren woman a place in the house ♦ and makes her a joyful mother of children. Alleluia.

From the rising of the sun to its setting we praise your name, O Lord; may your promise to raise the poor from the dust and turn the fortunes of the needy upside down be fulfilled in our time also, as it was in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 9.32-end

Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralysed. Peter said to him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!' And immediately he got up. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Friday, 9 September: Charles Fuge Lowder

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

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

Acts 10.1-16

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.