

**Monday December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Psalm 40: 1-8**

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.

**<sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;**

**he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the Lord  
and put their trust in him.

**<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one  
who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not look to the proud,  
to those who turn aside to false gods.**

<sup>5</sup> Many, Lord my God,  
are the wonders you have done,  
the things you planned for us.  
None can compare with you;  
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,  
they would be too many to declare.

**<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—  
but my ears you have opened—  
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.**

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am, I have come,

it is written about me in the scroll.

**<sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God;  
your law is within my heart."**

**I Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Psalm 70**

Hasten, O God, to save me;  
come quickly, Lord, to help me

**<sup>2</sup> May those who want to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.**

<sup>3</sup> May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
turn back because of their shame.

**<sup>4</sup> But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
"The Lord is great!"**

<sup>5</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
come quickly to me, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer;  
Lord, do not delay.

## **I Thessalonians 5: 12-the end**

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

<sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, pray for us. <sup>26</sup> Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. <sup>27</sup> I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

<sup>28</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Psalm 75**

We praise you, God,  
we praise you, for your Name is near;  
people tell of your wonderful deeds.

**<sup>2</sup> You say, "I choose the appointed time;  
it is I who judge with equity.**

**<sup>3</sup> When the earth and all its people quake,  
it is I who hold its pillars firm.**

**<sup>4</sup> To the arrogant I say, 'Boast no more,'  
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horns.**

**<sup>5</sup> Do not lift your horns against heaven;  
do not speak so defiantly.'"**

**<sup>6</sup> No one from the east or the west  
or from the desert can exalt themselves.**

**<sup>7</sup> It is God who judges:  
He brings one down, he exalts another.**

**<sup>8</sup> In the hand of the Lord is a cup  
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;  
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth  
drink it down to its very dregs.**

**<sup>9</sup> As for me, I will declare this forever;  
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,**

**<sup>10</sup> who says, "I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,  
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up."**

## **2 Thessalonians I**

Paul, Silas<sup>[a]</sup> and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

<sup>5</sup> All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. <sup>6</sup> God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you <sup>7</sup> and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might <sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. <sup>12</sup> We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Psalm 76

God is renowned in Judah;  
in Israel his name is great.

<sup>2</sup> **His tent is in Salem,  
his dwelling place in Zion.**

<sup>3</sup> There he broke the flashing arrows,  
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> **You are radiant with light,  
more majestic than mountains rich with game.**

<sup>5</sup> The valiant lie plundered,  
they sleep their last sleep;  
not one of the warriors  
can lift his hands.

<sup>6</sup> **At your rebuke, God of Jacob,  
both horse and chariot lie still.**

<sup>7</sup> It is you alone who are to be feared.  
Who can stand before you when you are angry?

<sup>8</sup> **From heaven you pronounced judgment,  
and the land feared and was quiet—**

<sup>9</sup> when you, God, rose up to judge,  
to save all the afflicted of the land.

<sup>10</sup> **Surely your wrath against mankind brings you praise,  
and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.<sup>[l]</sup>**

<sup>11</sup> Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfil them;  
let all the neighbouring lands  
bring gifts to the One to be feared.

<sup>12</sup> **He breaks the spirit of rulers;  
he is feared by the kings of the earth.**

## 2 Thessalonians 2

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup> not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness<sup>[a]</sup> is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

<sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, <sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup> and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings<sup>[c]</sup> we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

<sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

**Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Psalms 98**

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

**<sup>2</sup>The Lord has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

**<sup>4</sup>Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;**

<sup>5</sup>make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,

**<sup>6</sup>with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;**

<sup>9</sup>let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

### **2 Thessalonians 3**

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you. <sup>2</sup>And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. <sup>3</sup>But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. <sup>4</sup>We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will

continue to do the things we command. <sup>5</sup>May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

<sup>6</sup>In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."  
<sup>11</sup>We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup>Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. <sup>13</sup>And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

<sup>14</sup>Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. <sup>15</sup>Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Final Greetings

<sup>16</sup>Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

<sup>17</sup>I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

<sup>18</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.