

Morning Prayer Psalms & Readings w/c 7th September 2020

Monday, 7 September

Psalm 123 Refrain: *Our eyes wait upon the Lord our God.*

¹To you I lift up my eyes, ♦ to you that are enthroned in the heavens.

²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, ♦
or the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

³So our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, ♦ until he have mercy upon us. *R*

⁴Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, ♦ for we have had more than enough of contempt.

⁵Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of the arrogant, ♦ and of the contempt of the proud.

Sovereign God, enthroned in the heavens, look upon us with your eyes of mercy, as we look on you with humility and love, and fill our souls with your peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 10.34-end

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Tuesday, 8 September *The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Psalm 132 Refrain: *Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.*

¹Lord, remember for David ♦ all the hardships he endured;

²How he swore an oath to the Lord ♦ and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³I will not come within the shelter of my house, ♦ nor climb up into my bed;

⁴I will not allow my eyes to sleep, ♦ nor let my eyelids slumber,

⁵Until I find a place for the Lord, ♦ a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.' *R*

⁶Now, we heard of the ark in Ephrathah ♦ and found it in the fields of Ja-ar.

⁷Let us enter his dwelling place ♦ and fall low before his footstool.

⁸Arise, O Lord, into your resting place, ♦ you and the ark of your strength.

⁹Let your priests be clothed with righteousness ♦ and your faithful ones sing with joy.

¹⁰For your servant David's sake, ♦ turn not away the face of your anointed. *R*

¹¹The Lord has sworn an oath to David, ♦ a promise from which he will not shrink:

¹²Of the fruit of your body ♦ shall I set upon your throne.

¹³If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, ♦
their children also shall sit upon your throne for evermore.'

¹⁴For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself; ♦ he has desired her for his habitation: *R*

¹⁵This shall be my resting place for ever; ♦ here will I dwell, for I have longed for her.

¹⁶I will abundantly bless her provision; ♦ her poor will I satisfy with bread.

¹⁷I will clothe her priests with salvation, ♦ and her faithful ones shall rejoice and sing.

¹⁸There will I make a horn to spring up for David; ♦ I will keep a lantern burning for my anointed.

¹⁹As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; ♦ but on him shall his crown be bright.'

Jesus, Son of David, make us a priestly people; clothe us in righteousness, make us fruitful, and give us hearts to shout for joy in your salvation; we pray in the power of the Spirit.

Acts 11.1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

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.**

Wednesday, 9 September Charles Fuge Lowder

Psalm 119.153-end Refrain:*I have longed for your salvation, O Lord.*

¹⁵³O consider my affliction and deliver me, ♦ for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴Plead my cause and redeem me; ♦ according to your promise, give me life.

¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked, ♦ for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶Great is your compassion, O Lord; ♦ give me life, according to your judgements. *R*

¹⁵⁷Many there are that persecute and oppress me, ♦ yet do I not swerve from your testimonies.

¹⁵⁸It grieves me when I see the treacherous, ♦ for they do not keep your word.

¹⁵⁹Consider, O Lord, how I love your commandments; ♦ give me life according to your loving-kindness.

¹⁶⁰The sum of your word is truth, ♦ and all your righteous judgements endure for evermore. *R*

¹⁶¹Princes have persecuted me without a cause, ♦ but my heart stands in awe of your word.

¹⁶²I am as glad of your word ♦ as one who finds great spoils.

¹⁶³As for lies, I hate and abhor them, ♦ but your law do I love.

¹⁶⁴Seven times a day do I praise you, ♦ because of your righteous judgements. *R*

¹⁶⁵Great peace have they who love your law; ♦ nothing shall make them stumble.

¹⁶⁶Lord, I have looked for your salvation ♦ and I have fulfilled your commandments.

¹⁶⁷My soul has kept your testimonies ♦ and greatly have I loved them.

¹⁶⁸I have kept your commandments and testimonies, ♦ for all my ways are before you.

¹⁶⁹Let my cry come before you, O Lord; ♦ give me understanding, according to your word.

¹⁷⁰Let my supplication come before you; ♦ deliver me, according to your promise.

¹⁷¹My lips shall pour forth your praise, ♦ when you have taught me your statutes.

¹⁷²My tongue shall sing of your word, ♦ for all your commandments are righteous. *R*

¹⁷³Let your hand reach out to help me, ♦ for I have chosen your commandments.

¹⁷⁴I have longed for your salvation, O Lord, ♦ and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵Let my soul live and it shall praise you, ♦ and let your judgements be my help.

¹⁷⁶I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; ♦

O seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

God of mercy, swift to help us, as our lips pour forth your praise, fill our hearts with the peace you give to those who wait for your salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 11.19-end

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they associated with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Thursday, 10 September

Psalm 143 *Refrain: Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.*

¹Hear my prayer, O Lord, and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; ♦ answer me in your righteousness.

²Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦ for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

³For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, ♦ making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

⁴My spirit faints within me; ♦ my heart within me is desolate. *R*

⁵I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; ♦ I consider the works of your hands.

⁶I stretch out my hands to you; ♦ my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

⁷O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; ♦

hide not your face from me lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

⁸Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for in you I put my trust; ♦

show me the way I should walk in, for I lift up my soul to you. *R*

⁹Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦ for I flee to you for refuge.

¹⁰Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦ let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

¹¹Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦ for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

¹²In your faithfulness, slay my enemies, and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦
for truly I am your servant.

Jesus, our companion, when we are driven to despair, help us, through the friends and strangers we encounter on our path, to know you as our refuge, our way, our truth and our life.

Acts 12.1-17

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she insisted that it was so. They said, 'It is his angel.' Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, 'Tell this to James and to the believers.' Then he left and went to another place.

Friday, 11 September

Psalm 142 *Refrain: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.*

¹I cry aloud to the Lord; ♦ to the Lord I make my supplication.

²I pour out my complaint before him ♦ and tell him of my trouble.

³When my spirit faints within me, you know my path; ♦
in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.

⁴I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me; ♦
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul. *R*

⁵I cry out to you, O Lord, and say: ♦ 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

⁶Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low; ♦
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

⁷Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name; ♦
when you have dealt bountifully with me, then shall the righteous gather around me.'

God of compassion, you regard the forsaken and give hope to the crushed in spirit; hear those who cry to you in distress and bring your ransomed people to sing your glorious praise, now and for ever.

Acts 12.18-end

When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!' And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.