

## Psalm & Readings Tuesday 7th July 2020

### Psalm 89:1-18

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness  
to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established  
for ever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my  
chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:

"I will establish your descendants for ever,  
and build your throne for all  
generations." *Selah*

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy  
ones.

For who in the skies can be compared to  
the Lord?

Who among the heavenly beings is like  
the Lord,  
a God feared in the council of the holy ones,  
great and awesome above all that are around  
him?

O Lord God of hosts,  
who is as mighty as you, O Lord?

Your faithfulness surrounds you.

You rule the raging of the sea;  
when its waves rise, you still them.

You crushed Rahab like a carcass;  
you scattered your enemies with your mighty  
arm.

The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours;  
the world and all that is in it—you have  
founded them.

The north and the south—you created them;  
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.

You have a mighty arm;  
strong is your hand, high your right hand.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of  
your throne;

steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your  
countenance;

they exult in your name all day long,  
and extol your righteousness.  
For you are the glory of their strength;  
by your favour our horn is exalted.  
For our shield belongs to the Lord,

### Judges 14

Once Samson went down to Timnah, and at  
Timnah he saw a Philistine woman. Then he came  
up, and told his father and mother, 'I saw a  
Philistine woman at Timnah; now get her for me  
as my wife.' But his father and mother said to  
him, 'Is there not a woman among your kin, or  
among all our people, that you must go to take a  
wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?' But  
Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me,  
because she pleases me.' His father and mother  
did not know that this was from the Lord; for he  
was seeking a pretext to act against the  
Philistines. At that time the Philistines had  
dominion over Israel.

Then Samson went down with his father and  
mother to Timnah. When he came to the  
vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion  
roared at him. The spirit of the Lord rushed on  
him, and he tore the lion apart with his bare  
hands as one might tear apart a kid. But he did  
not tell his father or his mother what he had  
done. Then he went down and talked with the  
woman, and she pleased Samson. After a while  
he returned to marry her, and he turned aside to  
see the carcass of the lion, and there was a  
swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and  
honey. He scraped it out into his hands, and went  
on, eating as he went. When he came to his  
father and mother, he gave some to them, and  
they ate it. But he did not tell them that he had  
taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.  
His father went down to the woman, and Samson  
made a feast there as the young men were  
accustomed to do. When the people saw him,  
they brought thirty companions to be with  
him. Samson said to them, 'Let me now put a

riddle to you. If you can explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty festal garments. But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty festal garments.’ So they said to him, ‘Ask your riddle; let us hear it.’ He said to them, ‘Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet.’ But for three days they could not explain the riddle.

On the fourth day they said to Samson’s wife, ‘Coax your husband to explain the riddle to us, or we will burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?’ So Samson’s wife wept before him, saying, ‘You hate me; you do not really love me. You have asked a riddle of my people, but you have not explained it to me.’ He said to her, ‘Look, I have not told my father or my mother. Why should I tell you?’ She wept before him for the seven days that their feast lasted; and because she nagged him, on the seventh day he told her. Then she explained the riddle to her people. The men of the town said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, ‘What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?’ And he said to them, ‘If you had not ploughed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.’ Then the spirit of the Lord rushed on him, and he went down to Ashkelon. He killed thirty men of the town, took their spoil, and gave the festal garments to those who had explained the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father’s house. And Samson’s wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

#### **Luke 18:1-14**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” For a

while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”’ And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’