

## Psalm & Readings Sunday 17th January 2021

### Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.  
Honour and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.  
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before him, all the earth.  
Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity.'  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

### Isaiah 60.9-22

For the coastlands shall wait for me,  
the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from far away,  
their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the Lord your God,  
and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has glorified you.  
Foreigners shall build up your walls,  
and their kings shall minister to you;

for in my wrath I struck you down,  
but in my favour I have had mercy on you.  
Your gates shall always be open;  
day and night they shall not be shut,  
so that nations shall bring you their wealth,  
with their kings led in procession.  
For the nation and kingdom  
that will not serve you shall perish;  
those nations shall be utterly laid waste.  
The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,  
to beautify the place of my sanctuary;  
and I will glorify where my feet rest.  
The descendants of those who oppressed you  
shall come bending low to you,  
and all who despised you  
shall bow down at your feet;  
they shall call you the City of the Lord,  
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Whereas you have been forsaken and hated,  
with no one passing through,  
I will make you majestic for ever,  
a joy from age to age.  
You shall suck the milk of nations,  
you shall suck the breasts of kings;  
and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour  
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.  
Instead of bronze I will bring gold,  
instead of iron I will bring silver;  
instead of wood, bronze,  
instead of stones, iron.  
I will appoint Peace as your overseer  
and Righteousness as your taskmaster.  
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation,  
and your gates Praise.  
The sun shall no longer be  
your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give light to you by night;  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.

Your sun shall no more go down,  
or your moon withdraw itself;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.  
Your people shall all be righteous;  
they shall possess the land for ever.  
They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my  
hands,  
so that I might be glorified.  
The least of them shall become a clan,  
and the smallest one a mighty nation;  
I am the Lord;  
in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case, tithes are received by those who are mortal; in the other, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

### **Hebrews 6.17-7.10**

In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek.

This 'King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him'; and to him Abraham apportioned 'one-tenth of everything'. His name, in the first place, means 'king of righteousness'; next he is also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace'. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest for ever.

See how great he is! Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man, who does not belong to