

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Psalm 44

We have heard with our ears, O God,
our ancestors have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days,
in the days of old:
you with your own hand drove out the nations,
but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples,
but them you set free;
for not by their own sword did they win the land,
nor did their own arm give them victory;
but your right hand, and your arm,
and the light of your countenance,
for you delighted in them.
You are my King and my God;
you command victories for Jacob.
Through you we push down our foes;
through your name we tread down our
assailants.
For not in my bow do I trust,
nor can my sword save me.
But you have saved us from our foes,
and have put to confusion those who hate us.
In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name for ever.
Yet you have rejected us and abased us,
and have not gone out with our armies.
You made us turn back from the foe,
and our enemies have taken spoil for
themselves.
You have made us like sheep for slaughter,
and have scattered us among the nations.
You have sold your people for a trifle,
demanding no high price for them.
You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,
the derision and scorn of those around us.
You have made us a byword among the nations,
a laughing-stock among the peoples.
All day long my disgrace is before me,
and shame has covered my face
at the words of the taunters and revilers,
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.
All this has come upon us,
yet we have not forgotten you,
or been false to your covenant.

Our heart has not turned back,
nor have our steps departed from your way,
yet you have broken us in the haunt of jackals,
and covered us with deep darkness.
If we had forgotten the name of our God,
or spread out our hands to a strange god,
would not God discover this?
For he knows the secrets of the heart.
Because of you we are being killed all day long,
and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord?
Awake, do not cast us off for ever!
Why do you hide your face?
Why do you forget our affliction and
oppression?
For we sink down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
Rise up, come to our help.
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

Jeremiah 5: 1-19

Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem,
look around and take note!
Search its squares and see
if you can find one person
who acts justly
and seeks truth—
so that I may pardon Jerusalem.
Although they say, 'As the Lord lives',
yet they swear falsely.
O Lord, do your eyes not look for truth?
You have struck them,
but they felt no anguish;
you have consumed them,
but they refused to take correction.
They have made their faces harder than rock;
they have refused to turn back.
Then I said, 'These are only the poor,
they have no sense;
for they do not know the way of the Lord,
the law of their God.
Let me go to the rich
and speak to them;
surely they know the way of the Lord,

the law of their God.’
But they all alike had broken the yoke,
they had burst the bonds.
Therefore a lion from the forest shall kill them,
a wolf from the desert shall destroy them.
A leopard is watching against their cities;
everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in
pieces—
because their transgressions are many,
their apostasies are great.
How can I pardon you?
Your children have forsaken me,
and have sworn by those who are no gods.
When I fed them to the full,
they committed adultery
and trooped to the houses of prostitutes.
They were well-fed lusty stallions,
each neighing for his neighbour’s wife.
Shall I not punish them for these things?
says the Lord;
and shall I not bring retribution
on a nation such as this?
Go up through her vine-rows and destroy,
but do not make a full end;
strip away her branches,
for they are not the Lord’s.
For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
have been utterly faithless to me,
says the Lord.
They have spoken falsely of the Lord,
and have said, ‘He will do nothing.
No evil will come upon us,
and we shall not see sword or famine.’
The prophets are nothing but wind,
for the word is not in them.
Thus shall it be done to them!
Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts:
Because they have spoken this word,
I am now making my words in your mouth a fire,
and this people wood, and the fire shall devour
them.
I am going to bring upon you
a nation from far away, O house of Israel,
says the Lord.
It is an enduring nation,
it is an ancient nation,
a nation whose language you do not know,
nor can you understand what they say.

Their quiver is like an open tomb;
all of them are mighty warriors.
They shall eat up your harvest and your food;
they shall eat up your sons and your daughters;
they shall eat up your flocks and your herds;
they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees;
they shall destroy with the sword
your fortified cities in which you trust.
But even in those days, says the Lord, I will not
make a full end of you. And when your people
say, ‘Why has the Lord our God done all these
things to us?’ you shall say to them, ‘As you have
forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land,
so you shall serve strangers in a land that is not
yours.’

John 5: 19-29

Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, the Son
can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees
the Father doing; for whatever the Father does,
the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son
and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he
will show him greater works than these, so that
you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father
raises the dead and gives them life, so also the
Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. The
Father judges no one but has given all judgement
to the Son, so that all may honour the Son just as
they honour the Father. Anyone who does not
honour the Son does not honour the Father who
sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears
my word and believes him who sent me has
eternal life, and does not come under judgement,
but has passed from death to life.
‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is
now here, when the dead will hear the voice of
the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For
just as the Father has life in himself, so he has
granted the Son also to have life in himself; and
he has given him authority to execute judgement,
because he is the Son of Man. Do not be
astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all
who are in their graves will hear his voice and will
come out—those who have done good, to the
resurrection of life, and those who have done
evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.