

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 30th June 2021

### Psalm 119:105-126

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe your righteous ordinances.  
I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.  
Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,  
and teach me your ordinances.  
I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.  
The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.  
Your decrees are my heritage for ever;  
they are the joy of my heart.  
I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
for ever, to the end.  
I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.  
You are my hiding-place and my shield;  
I hope in your word.  
Go away from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commandments of my God.  
Uphold me according to your promise, that I may  
live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope.  
Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually.  
You spurn all who go astray from your statutes;  
for their cunning is in vain.  
All the wicked of the earth you count as dross;  
therefore I love your decrees.  
My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgements.  
I have done what is just and right;  
do not leave me to my oppressors.  
Guarantee your servant's well-being;  
do not let the godless oppress me.  
My eyes fail from watching for your salvation,  
and for the fulfilment of your righteous  
promise.  
Deal with your servant according to your  
steadfast love,  
and teach me your statutes.

I am your servant; give me understanding,  
so that I may know your decrees.  
It is time for the Lord to act,  
for your law has been broken.

### Job 39

'Do you know when the mountain goats give  
birth?  
Do you observe the calving of the deer?  
Can you number the months that they fulfil,  
and do you know the time when they give  
birth,  
when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,  
and are delivered of their young?  
Their young ones become strong, they grow up in  
the open;  
they go forth, and do not return to them.  
'Who has let the wild ass go free?  
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,  
to which I have given the steppe for its home,  
the salt land for its dwelling-place?  
It scorns the tumult of the city;  
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.  
It ranges the mountains as its pasture,  
and it searches after every green thing.  
'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?  
Will it spend the night at your crib?  
Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,  
or will it harrow the valleys after you?  
Will you depend on it because its strength is  
great,  
and will you hand over your labour to it?  
Do you have faith in it that it will return,  
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?  
'The ostrich's wings flap wildly,  
though its pinions lack plumage.  
For it leaves its eggs to the earth,  
and lets them be warmed on the ground,  
forgetting that a foot may crush them,  
and that a wild animal may trample them.

It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;

though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;

because God has made it forget wisdom,  
and given it no share in understanding.

When it spreads its plumes aloft,  
it laughs at the horse and its rider.

‘Do you give the horse its might?

Do you clothe its neck with mane?

Do you make it leap like the locust?

Its majestic snorting is terrible.

It paws violently, exults mightily;

it goes out to meet the weapons.

It laughs at fear, and is not dismayed;

it does not turn back from the sword.

Upon it rattle the quiver,

the flashing spear, and the javelin.

With fierceness and rage it swallows the ground;

it cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet.

When the trumpet sounds, it says “Aha!”

From a distance it smells the battle,

the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

‘Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars,  
and spreads its wings towards the south?

Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up  
and makes its nest on high?

It lives on the rock and makes its home  
in the fastness of the rocky crag.

From there it spies the prey;

its eyes see it from far away.

Its young ones suck up blood;

and where the slain are, there it is.’

acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ. Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else’s foundation, but as it is written,

‘Those who have never been told of him shall see,  
and those who have never heard of him shall understand.’

## **Romans 15:14-21**

I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. Nevertheless, on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be