

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Psalm 77

I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without
wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit faints.
You keep my eyelids from closing;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
I consider the days of old,
and remember the years of long ago.
I commune with my heart in the night;
I meditate and search my spirit:
'Will the Lord spurn for ever,
and never again be favourable?
Has his steadfast love ceased for ever?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?'
And I say, 'It is my grief
that the right hand of the Most High has
changed.'
I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;
I will remember your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all your work,
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the
peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Job 29

Job again took up his discourse and said:
'O that I were as in the months of old,
as in the days when God watched over me;
when his lamp shone over my head,
and by his light I walked through darkness;
when I was in my prime,
when the friendship of God was upon my tent;
when the Almighty was still with me,
when my children were around me;
when my steps were washed with milk,
and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!
When I went out to the gate of the city,
when I took my seat in the square,
the young men saw me and withdrew,
and the aged rose up and stood;
the nobles refrained from talking,
and laid their hands on their mouths;
the voices of princes were hushed,
and their tongues stuck to the roof of their
mouths.
When the ear heard, it commended me,
and when the eye saw, it approved;
because I delivered the poor who cried,
and the orphan who had no helper.
The blessing of the wretched came upon me,
and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.
I put on righteousness, and it clothed me;
my justice was like a robe and a turban.
I was eyes to the blind,
and feet to the lame.
I was a father to the needy,
and I championed the cause of the stranger.

I broke the fangs of the unrighteous,
and made them drop their prey from their
teeth.
Then I thought, "I shall die in my nest,
and I shall multiply my days like the phoenix;
my roots spread out to the waters,
with the dew all night on my branches;
my glory was fresh with me,
and my bow ever new in my hand."
'They listened to me, and waited,
and kept silence for my counsel.
After I spoke they did not speak again,
and my word dropped upon them like dew.
They waited for me as for the rain;
they opened their mouths as for the spring
rain.
I smiled on them when they had no confidence;
and the light of my countenance they did not
extinguish.
I chose their way, and sat as chief,
and I lived like a king among his troops,
like one who comforts mourners.

Romans 12: 9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good; love one another with mutual
affection; outdo one another in showing
honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in
suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the
needs of the saints; extend hospitality to
strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep. Live in harmony with one
another; do not be haughty, but associate with
the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you
are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take
thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is
possible, so far as it depends on you, live
peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge
yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of
God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will
repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are
hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them
something to drink; for by doing this you will
heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be
overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.