

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 29th September 2021

### Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.  
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
and was saved from every trouble.  
The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.  
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.  
The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good  
thing.

Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Which of you desires life,  
and covets many days to enjoy good?  
Keep your tongue from evil,  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the  
earth.  
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord rescues them from them all.  
He keeps all their bones;  
not one of them will be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be  
condemned.  
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be  
condemned.

### Tobit 12:6-end

Then Raphael called the two of them privately  
and said to them, 'Bless God and acknowledge  
him in the presence of all the living for the good  
things he has done for you. Bless and sing praise  
to his name. With fitting honour declare to all  
people the deeds of God. Do not be slow to  
acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret  
of a king, but to acknowledge and reveal the  
works of God, and with fitting honour to  
acknowledge him. Do good, and evil will not  
overtake you. Prayer with fasting is good, but  
better than both is almsgiving with righteousness.  
A little with righteousness is better than wealth  
with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to  
lay up gold. For almsgiving saves from death and  
purges away every sin. Those who give alms will  
enjoy a full life, but those who commit sin and do  
wrong are their own worst enemies.

'I will now declare the whole truth to you and will  
conceal nothing from you. Already I have  
declared it to you when I said, "It is good to  
conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal with  
due honour the works of God." So now, when you  
and Sarah prayed, it was I who brought and read  
the record of your prayer before the glory of the  
Lord, and likewise whenever you buried the dead.  
And that time when you did not hesitate to get up  
and leave your dinner to go and bury the dead, I  
was sent to you to test you. And at the same time  
God sent me to heal you and Sarah your  
daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven  
angels who stand ready and enter before the  
glory of the Lord.'

The two of them were shaken; they fell face down, for they were afraid. But he said to them, 'Do not be afraid; peace be with you. Bless God for evermore. As for me, when I was with you, I was not acting on my own will, but by the will of God. Bless him each and every day; sing his praises. Although you were watching me, I really did not eat or drink anything—but what you saw was a vision. So now get up from the ground, and acknowledge God. See, I am ascending to him who sent me. Write down all these things that have happened to you.' And he ascended. Then they stood up, and could see him no more. They kept blessing God and singing his praises, and they acknowledged God for these marvellous deeds of his, when an angel of God had appeared to them.

### **Acts 12: 1-11**

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'