

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 28th September 2021

Psalm 73

Truly God is good to the upright,
to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;
my steps had nearly slipped.
For I was envious of the arrogant;
I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For they have no pain;
their bodies are sound and sleek.
They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not plagued like other people.
Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them like a garment.
Their eyes swell out with fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
They set their mouths against heaven,
and their tongues range over the earth.

Therefore the people turn and praise them,
and find no fault in them.

And they say, 'How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?'
Such are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
All in vain I have kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
For all day long I have been plagued,
and am punished every morning.

If I had said, 'I will talk on in this way',
I would have been untrue to the circle of your
children.
But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I perceived their end.
Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
They are like a dream when one awakes;
on awaking you despise their phantoms.

When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
I was stupid and ignorant;
I was like a brute beast towards you.
Nevertheless I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,
and afterwards you will receive me with
honour.

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire
other than you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my
portion for ever.

Indeed, those who are far from you will perish;
you put an end to those who are false to you.
But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
to tell of all your works.

1 Maccabees 1: 20-40

After subduing Egypt, Antiochus returned in the
one hundred and forty-third year. He went up
against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a
strong force. He arrogantly entered the sanctuary
and took the golden altar, the lampstand for the
light, and all its utensils. He took also the table for
the bread of the Presence, the cups for drink-
offerings, the bowls, the golden censers, the
curtain, the crowns, and the gold decoration on
the front of the temple; he stripped it all off. He
took the silver and the gold, and the costly
vessels; he took also the hidden treasures that he
found. Taking them all, he went into his own land.

He shed much blood,
and spoke with great arrogance.
Israel mourned deeply in every community,
rulers and elders groaned,
young women and young men became faint,
the beauty of the women faded.

Every bridegroom took up the lament;
she who sat in the bridal chamber was
mourning.
Even the land trembled for its inhabitants,
and all the house of Jacob was clothed with
shame.

Two years later the king sent to the cities of Judah
a chief collector of tribute, and he came to
Jerusalem with a large force. Deceitfully he spoke
peaceable words to them, and they believed him;
but he suddenly fell upon the city, dealt it a
severe blow, and destroyed many people of
Israel. He plundered the city, burned it with fire,
and tore down its houses and its surrounding
walls. They took captive the women and children,
and seized the livestock. Then they fortified the
city of David with a great strong wall and strong
towers, and it became their citadel. They
stationed there a sinful people, men who were
renegades. These strengthened their position;
they stored up arms and food, and collecting the
spoils of Jerusalem they stored them there, and
became a great menace,

for the citadel became an ambush against the
sanctuary,
an evil adversary of Israel at all times.
On every side of the sanctuary they shed innocent
blood;
they even defiled the sanctuary.
Because of them the residents of Jerusalem fled;
she became a dwelling of strangers;
she became strange to her offspring,
and her children forsook her.
Her sanctuary became desolate like a desert;
her feasts were turned into mourning,
her sabbaths into a reproach,
her honour into contempt.
Her dishonour now grew as great as her glory;
her exaltation was turned into mourning.

Mark 14: 12-25

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the
Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to
him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the
preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he
sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into
the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will
meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters,
say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks,
Where is my guest room where I may eat the
Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a
large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make
preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out
and went to the city, and found everything as he
had told them; and they prepared the Passover
meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve.
And when they had taken their places and were
eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will
betray me, one who is eating with me.' They
began to be distressed and to say to him one
after another, 'Surely, not I?' He said to them, 'It
is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread
into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes
as it is written of him, but woe to that one by
whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have
been better for that one not to have been born.'

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread,
and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them,
and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a
cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them,
and all of them drank from it. He said to them,
'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured
out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again
drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I
drink it new in the kingdom of God.'