

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 27th March 2024

Psalm 102

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry come to you.
Do not hide your face from me
on the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily on the day when I call.

For my days pass away like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.
My heart is stricken and withered like grass;
I am too wasted to eat my bread.
Because of my loud groaning
my bones cling to my skin.
I am like an owl of the wilderness,
like a little owl of the waste places.
I lie awake;
I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.
All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who deride me use my name for a curse.
For I eat ashes like bread,
and mingle tears with my drink,
because of your indignation and anger;
for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.
My days are like an evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.

But you, O Lord, are enthroned for ever;
your name endures to all generations.
You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to favour it;
the appointed time has come.
For your servants hold its stones dear,
and have pity on its dust.
The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
For the Lord will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:
that he looked down from his holy height,
from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,
to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die;
so that the name of the Lord may be declared in Zion,

and his praise in Jerusalem,
when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.

He has broken my strength in mid-course;
he has shortened my days.
'O my God,' I say, 'do not take me away
at the mid-point of my life,
you whose years endure
throughout all generations.'

Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
They will perish, but you endure;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You change them like clothing, and they pass away;
but you are the same, and your years have no end.
The children of your servants shall live secure;
their offspring shall be established in your presence.

Wisdom 1:16 – 2:1; 2:12-22

But the ungodly by their words and deeds
summoned death;
considering him a friend, they pined away
and made a covenant with him,
because they are fit to belong to his company.
For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,
'Short and sorrowful is our life,
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,
and no one has been known to return from Hades.

'Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
We are considered by him as something base,

and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.
Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his
life;
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help
him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his
adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be
protected.'

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they did not know the secret purposes of
God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

Luke 22:54-end

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing
him into the high priest's house. But Peter was
following at a distance. When they had kindled a
fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down
together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-
girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and
said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied
it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little
later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also
are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!'
Then about an hour later yet another kept
insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for
he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not
know what you are talking about!' At that
moment, while he was still speaking, the cock
crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter.
Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord,
how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows
today, you will deny me three times.' And he
went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to
mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded
him and kept asking him, 'Prophecy! Who is it
that struck you?' They kept heaping many other
insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the
people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered
together, and they brought him to their council.
They said, 'If you are the Messiah, tell us.' He
replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I
question you, you will not answer. But from now
on the Son of Man will be seated at the right
hand of the power of God.' All of them asked,
'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them,
'You say that I am.' Then they said, 'What further
testimony do we need? We have heard it
ourselves from his own lips!'

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his
patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen