

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 16th April 2024

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of
the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Exodus 20:1 – 21

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of
the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you
shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether
in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or
that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the
water under the earth. You shall not bow down to
them or worship them; for I the Lord your God
am a jealous God, punishing children for the
iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth
generation of those who reject me, but showing

steadfast love to the thousandth generation of
those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of
the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit
anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For
six days you shall labour and do all your work. But
the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your
God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or
your daughter, your male or female slave, your
livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For
in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the
sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh
day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day
and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your
days may be long in the land that the Lord your
God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your
neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you
shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or
female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that
belongs to your neighbour.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and
lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the
mountain smoking, they were afraid and
trembled and stood at a distance, and said to
Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but
do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses
said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has
come only to test you and to put the fear of him
upon you so that you do not sin.' Then the people
stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the
thick darkness where God was.

Luke 1:26 – 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

A prayer for this time of transition

Faithful and loving God
we hold our Benefice before you in this time of transition.
Be with us in our waiting, in our expectation and in our preparation.
Be with our new incumbent as he or she also waits, expects and prepares.
Bring us together in love for you and for this Benefice,
and be our light for the way ahead.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

The Collect of the Day

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by
his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and
truth;
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