

## Psalm and Readings Thursday 25th April 2024

### Psalm 37:23 – end

Our steps are made firm by the Lord,  
when he delights in our way;  
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,  
for the Lord holds us by the hand.

I have been young, and now am old,  
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread.  
They are ever giving liberally and lending,  
and their children become a blessing.

Depart from evil, and do good;  
so you shall abide for ever.  
For the Lord loves justice;  
he will not forsake his faithful ones.

The righteous shall be kept safe for ever,  
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.  
The righteous shall inherit the land,  
and live in it for ever.

The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,  
and their tongues speak justice.  
The law of their God is in their hearts;  
their steps do not slip.

The wicked watch for the righteous,  
and seek to kill them.  
The Lord will not abandon them to their power,  
or let them be condemned when they are  
brought to trial.

Wait for the Lord, and keep to his way,  
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;  
you will look on the destruction of the wicked.

I have seen the wicked oppressing,  
and towering like a cedar of Lebanon.  
Again I passed by, and they were no more;  
though I sought them, they could not be found.

Mark the blameless, and behold the upright,  
for there is posterity for the peaceable.  
But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;  
the posterity of the wicked shall be cut off.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;  
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.  
The Lord helps them and rescues them;  
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves  
them,  
because they take refuge in him.

### Ecclesiasticus 51:13 – end

While I was still young, before I went on my  
travels,

I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.  
Before the temple I asked for her,  
and I will search for her until the end.

From the first blossom to the ripening grape  
my heart delighted in her;  
my foot walked on the straight path;  
from my youth I followed her steps.

I inclined my ear a little and received her,  
and I found for myself much instruction.  
I made progress in her;  
to him who gives wisdom I will give glory.

For I resolved to live according to wisdom,  
and I was zealous for the good,  
and I shall never be disappointed.  
My soul grappled with wisdom,  
and in my conduct I was strict;

I spread out my hands to the heavens,  
and lamented my ignorance of her.  
I directed my soul to her,  
and in purity I found her.

With her I gained understanding from the first;  
therefore I will never be forsaken.  
My heart was stirred to seek her;  
therefore I have gained a prize possession.  
The Lord gave me my tongue as a reward,  
and I will praise him with it.

Draw near to me, you who are uneducated,  
and lodge in the house of instruction.  
Why do you say you are lacking in these things,  
and why do you endure such great thirst?  
I opened my mouth and said,  
Acquire wisdom for yourselves without money.

Put your neck under her yoke,  
and let your souls receive instruction;  
it is to be found close by.

See with your own eyes that I have laboured but  
little  
and found for myself much serenity.  
Hear but a little of my instruction,  
and through me you will acquire silver and  
gold.

May your soul rejoice in God's mercy,  
and may you never be ashamed to praise him.  
Do your work in good time,  
and in his own time God will give you your  
reward.

### **Acts 12:25 – 13:13**

Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them. When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. But the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, 'You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now listen—the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun.' Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem.

### **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 God,  
who enlightened your holy Church  
through the inspired witness of your evangelist  
Saint Mark:  
grant that we, being firmly grounded  
in the truth of the gospel,  
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and  
deed;  
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