

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 24th April 2024

### Psalm 135

Praise the Lord!

Praise the name of the Lord;  
give praise, O servants of the Lord,  
you that stand in the house of the Lord,  
in the courts of the house of our God.  
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
sing to his name, for he is gracious.  
For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,  
Israel as his own possession.

For I know that the Lord is great;  
our Lord is above all gods.  
Whatever the Lord pleases he does,  
in heaven and on earth,  
in the seas and all deeps.  
He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of  
the earth;  
he makes lightnings for the rain  
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
both human beings and animals;  
he sent signs and wonders  
into your midst, O Egypt,  
against Pharaoh and all his servants.  
He struck down many nations  
and killed mighty kings—  
Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
and Og, king of Bashan,  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan—  
and gave their land as a heritage,  
a heritage to his people Israel.

Your name, O Lord, endures for ever,  
your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages.  
For the Lord will vindicate his people,  
and have compassion on his servants.

The idols of the nations are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.  
They have mouths, but they do not speak;  
they have eyes, but they do not see;  
they have ears, but they do not hear,  
and there is no breath in their mouths.  
Those who make them  
and all who trust them  
shall become like them.

O house of Israel, bless the Lord!  
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!

O house of Levi, bless the Lord!

You that fear the Lord, bless the Lord!  
Blessed be the Lord from Zion,  
he who resides in Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

### Exodus 33

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, "To your descendants I will give it." I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, or I would consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.'

When the people heard these harsh words, they mourned, and no one put on ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, and I will decide what to do to you."' Therefore the Israelites stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onwards.

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

The Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

### **Luke 3:15 – 22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all

the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

### **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,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen