

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 30th April 2024

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his
wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Numbers 11:1 – 33

Now when the people complained in the hearing
of the Lord about their misfortunes, the Lord
heard it and his anger was kindled. Then the fire
of the Lord burned against them, and consumed
some outlying parts of the camp. But the people
cried out to Moses; and Moses prayed to the
Lord, and the fire abated. So that place was called
Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned
against them.

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and
the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we
had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used
to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the
melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but
now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing
at all but this manna to look at.'

Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its
colour was like the colour of gum resin. The
people went around and gathered it, ground it in
mills or beat it in mortars, then boiled it in pots
and made cakes of it; and the taste of it was like
the taste of cakes baked with oil. When the dew
fell on the camp in the night, the manna would
fall with it.

Moses heard the people weeping throughout
their families, all at the entrances of their tents.
Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was
displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have
you treated your servant so badly? Why have I
not found favour in your sight, that you lay the
burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all
this people? Did I give birth to them, that you
should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as
a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that
you promised on oath to their ancestors"? Where
am I to get meat to give to all this people? For
they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat
to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people
alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the
way you are going to treat me, put me to death at
once—if I have found favour in your sight—and
do not let me see my misery.'

So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy
of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the
elders of the people and officers over them; bring
them to the tent of meeting, and have them take

their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the Lord, saying, "If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the Lord who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" But Moses said, 'The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, "I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month"! Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?' The Lord said to Moses, 'Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.'

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!' And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Then a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quails from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all

around the camp, about two cubits deep on the ground. So the people worked all that day and night and all the next day, gathering the quails; the least anyone gathered was ten homers; and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.

Luke 5:1 – 11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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 through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate
of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen