

## Psalm and Readings Thursday 19th December 2024

### Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
When their breath departs, they return to the  
earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith for ever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

### Isaiah 51:9-16

Awake, awake, put on strength,  
O arm of the Lord!  
Awake, as in days of old,  
the generations of long ago!  
Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,  
who pierced the dragon?  
Was it not you who dried up the sea,  
the waters of the great deep;  
who made the depths of the sea a way  
for the redeemed to cross over?  
So the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

I, I am he who comforts you;  
why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who  
must die,  
a human being who fades like grass?  
You have forgotten the Lord, your Maker,  
who stretched out the heavens  
and laid the foundations of the earth.  
You fear continually all day long  
because of the fury of the oppressor,  
who is bent on destruction.  
But where is the fury of the oppressor?  
The oppressed shall speedily be released;  
they shall not die and go down to the Pit,  
nor shall they lack bread.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—  
the Lord of hosts is his name.  
I have put my words in your mouth,  
and hidden you in the shadow of my hand,  
stretching out the heavens  
and laying the foundations of the earth,  
and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'

### 2 Thessalonians 2

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our  
being gathered together to him, we beg you,  
brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in  
mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by  
letter, as though from us, to the effect that the  
day of the Lord is already here. Let no one  
deceive you in any way; for that day will not come  
unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless  
one is revealed, the one destined for destruction.  
He opposes and exalts himself above every so-  
called god or object of worship, so that he takes  
his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to  
be God. Do you not remember that I told you  
these things when I was still with you? And you  
know what is now restraining him, so that he may  
be revealed when his time comes. For the  
mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but  
only until the one who now restrains it is  
removed. And then the lawless one will be  
revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with  
the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the  
manifestation of his coming. The coming of the

lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion, leading them to believe what is false, so that all who have not believed the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

### **The Collect of the Day**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your  
mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your  
way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the  
wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your  
sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.