

Psalm and Readings Thursday 3rd April 2025

Psalm 53

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'
They are corrupt, they commit abominable
acts;
there is no one who does good.

God looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

They have all fallen away, they are all alike
perverse;
there is no one who does good,
no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, those evildoers,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?

There they shall be in great terror,
in terror such as has not been.
For God will scatter the bones of the ungodly;
they will be put to shame, for God has rejected
them.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from
Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Jeremiah 19:1-13

Thus said the Lord: Go and buy a potter's
earthenware jug. Take with you some of the
elders of the people and some of the senior
priests, and go out to the valley of the son of
Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and
proclaim there the words that I tell you. You shall
say: Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah
and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord
of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to bring
such disaster upon this place that the ears of
everyone who hears of it will tingle. Because the
people have forsaken me, and have profaned this
place by making offerings in it to other gods
whom neither they nor their ancestors nor the
kings of Judah have known, and because they
have filled this place with the blood of the
innocent, and gone on building the high places of
Baal to burn their children in the fire as burnt-

offerings to Baal, which I did not command or
decree, nor did it enter my mind; therefore the
days are surely coming, says the Lord, when this
place shall no more be called Topheth, or the
valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of
Slaughter. And in this place I will make void the
plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will make them
fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the
hand of those who seek their life. I will give their
dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to
the wild animals of the earth. And I will make this
city a horror, a thing to be hissed at; everyone
who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss
because of all its disasters. And I will make them
eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their
daughters, and all shall eat the flesh of their
neighbours in the siege, and in the distress with
which their enemies and those who seek their life
afflict them.

Then you shall break the jug in the sight of those
who go with you, and shall say to them: Thus says
the Lord of hosts: So will I break this people and
this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it
can never be mended. In Topheth they shall bury
until there is no more room to bury. Thus will I do
to this place, says the Lord, and to its inhabitants,
making this city like Topheth. And the houses of
Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah
shall be defiled like the place of Topheth—all the
houses upon whose roofs offerings have been
made to the whole host of heaven, and libations
have been poured out to other gods.

John 10:22-end

At that time the festival of the Dedication took
place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was
walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,
'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are
the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I
have told you, and you do not believe. The works
that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but
you do not believe, because you do not belong to
my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them,
and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and
they will never perish. No one will snatch them

out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

The Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus replied, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?' The Jews answered, 'It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God.' Jesus answered, 'Is it not written in your law, "I said, you are gods"? If those to whom the word of God came were called "gods"—and the scripture cannot be annulled— can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, "I am God's Son"? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.' Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him, and they were saying, 'John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.' And many believed in him there.

A Prayer as we seek our new Associate Vicar

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your love for all people, and for all you give us. During our vacancy, we pray particularly for the person we believe in faith that you have chosen to be our next Associate Vicar.

May that person respond gladly to your call, and work with us to grow your Kingdom in this Benefice.

While we wait, send us your Holy Spirit: help us to be patient, build us up in faith and love, and equip us to serve you well with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.