

Psalm and Readings Thursday 8th January 2026

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change, though the mountains shake in
the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city
of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what
desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Jeremiah 30:1–17

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:
Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a
book all the words that I have spoken to you. For
the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I
will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and
Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to
the land that I gave to their ancestors and they
shall take possession of it.
These are the words that the Lord spoke
concerning Israel and Judah:

Thus says the Lord:
We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no
peace.
Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child?
Why then do I see every man with his hands on
his loins like a woman in labour?
Why has every face turned pale? Alas! that day is
so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress
for Jacob; yet he shall be rescued from it.

On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will break
the yoke from off his neck, and I will burst his
bonds, and strangers shall no more make a
servant of him. But they shall serve the Lord their
God and David their king, whom I will raise up for
them.

But as for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob,
says the Lord, and do not be dismayed, O Israel;
for I am going to save you from far away, and
your offspring from the land of their captivity.
Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,
and no one shall make him afraid.
For I am with you, says the Lord, to save you;
I will make an end of all the nations among which
I scattered you, but of you I will not make an end.
I will chastise you in just measure,
and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

For thus says the Lord:
Your hurt is incurable, your wound is grievous.
There is no one to uphold your cause,
no medicine for your wound, no healing for you.
All your lovers have forgotten you;
they care nothing for you;
for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy,
the punishment of a merciless foe,
because your guilt is great,
because your sins are so numerous.
Why do you cry out over your hurt?
Your pain is incurable.
Because your guilt is great, because your sins are
so numerous, I have done these things to you.
Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured,
and all your foes, every one of them, shall go
into captivity; those who plunder you shall be
plundered, and all who prey on you I will make a
prey.
For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I
will heal, says the Lord,
because they have called you an outcast:
'It is Zion; no one cares for her!'

Matthew 20:17–28

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took
the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said
to them on the way, 'See, we are going up to
Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed
over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will

condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

The Collect of the Day

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the
earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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.