

Psalm and Readings Thursday 15th January 2026

Psalm 21

In your strength the king rejoices, O Lord,
and in your help how greatly he exults!
You have given him his heart's desire,
and have not withheld the request of his lips.
For you meet him with rich blessings;
you set a crown of fine gold on his head.
He asked you for life; you gave it to him—
length of days for ever and ever.
His glory is great through your help;
splendour and majesty you bestow on him.
You bestow on him blessings for ever;
you make him glad with the joy of your
presence.
For the king trusts in the Lord,
and through the steadfast love of the Most
High he shall not be moved.

Your hand will find out all your enemies;
your right hand will find out those who hate you.
You will make them like a fiery furnace
when you appear.
The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath,
and fire will consume them.
You will destroy their offspring from the earth,
and their children from among humankind.
If they plan evil against you,
if they devise mischief, they will not succeed.
For you will put them to flight;
you will aim at their faces with your bows.

Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength!
We will sing and praise your power.

Genesis 3

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other
wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said
to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat
from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to
the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees
in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of
the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the
garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."'
But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not
die; for God knows that when you eat of it your
eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,
knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw
that the tree was good for food, and that it was a
delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be

desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and
ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who
was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both
were opened, and they knew that they were
naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and
made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in
the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and
the man and his wife hid themselves from the
presence of the Lord God among the trees of the
garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and
said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the
sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid,
because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said,
'Who told you that you were naked? Have you
eaten from the tree of which I commanded you
not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you
gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the
tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the
woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The
woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'
The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said,
'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said,
'Because you have listened to the voice of your
wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
"You shall not eat of it",
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.'

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever' — therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And

he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Collect of the Day

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your
adopted children;
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.