

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 25th February 2026

Psalm 6

- 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am
languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones
are shaking with terror.
- 3 My soul also is struck with terror,
while you, O Lord—how long?
- 4 Turn, O Lord, save my life;
deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- 5 For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who can give you praise?
- 6 I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
- 7 My eyes waste away because of grief;
they grow weak because of all my foes.
- 8 Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for
the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
- 9 The Lord has heard my supplication;
the Lord accepts my prayer.
- 10 All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck
with terror; they shall turn back, and in a
moment be put to shame.

Genesis 42:6-17

Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. 'Where do you come from?' he said. They said, 'From the land of Canaan, to buy food.' Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, 'You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!' They said to him, 'No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies.' But he said to them, 'No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!' They said, 'We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more.'

But Joseph said to them, 'It is just as I have said to you; you are spies! Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies.' And he put them all together in prison for three days.

Galatians 4:21 – 5:1

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written,

'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.'

Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the
wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience
to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.