

## Psalm and Readings Tuesday 24th February 2026

### Psalm 44

1 We have heard with our ears, O God,  
our ancestors have told us,  
what deeds you performed in their days,  
in the days of old:  
2 you with your own hand drove out the  
nations, but them you planted; you afflicted  
the peoples, but them you set free;  
3 for not by their own sword did they win the  
land, nor did their own arm give them victory;  
but your right hand, and your arm,  
and the light of your countenance,  
for you delighted in them.  
4 You are my King and my God;  
you command victories for Jacob.  
5 Through you we push down our foes;  
through your name we tread down our  
assailants.  
6 For not in my bow do I trust,  
nor can my sword save me.  
7 But you have saved us from our foes,  
and have put to confusion those who hate us.  
8 In God we have boasted continually, and we  
will give thanks to your name for ever.  
9 Yet you have rejected us and abased us,  
and have not gone out with our armies.  
10 You made us turn back from the foe, and our  
enemies have taken spoil for themselves.  
11 You have made us like sheep for slaughter,  
and have scattered us among the nations.  
12 You have sold your people for a trifle,  
demanding no high price for them.  
13 You have made us the taunt of our  
neighbours, the derision and scorn of those  
around us.  
14 You have made us a byword among the  
nations, a laughing-stock among the peoples.  
15 All day long my disgrace is before me,  
and shame has covered my face  
16 at the words of the taunters and revilers,  
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.  
17 All this has come upon us,  
yet we have not forgotten you,  
or been false to your covenant.  
18 Our heart has not turned back,  
nor have our steps departed from your way,  
19 yet you have broken us in the haunt of  
jackals, and covered us with deep darkness.

20 If we had forgotten the name of our God,  
or spread out our hands to a strange god,  
21 would not God discover this?  
For he knows the secrets of the heart.  
22 Because of you we are being killed all day  
long, and accounted as sheep for the  
slaughter.  
23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord?  
Awake, do not cast us off for ever!  
24 Why do you hide your face? Why do you  
forget our affliction and oppression?  
25 For we sink down to the dust;  
our bodies cling to the ground.  
26 Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the  
sake of your steadfast love.

### Genesis 41:46 – 42:5

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. He gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, 'For', he said, 'God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.' The second he named Ephraim, 'For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.'

The seven years of plenty that prevailed in the land of Egypt came to an end; and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every country, but throughout the land of Egypt there was bread. When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, 'Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do.' And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses,

and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, 'Why do you keep looking at one another? I have heard', he said, 'that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.' So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he feared that harm might come to him. Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to buy grain, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan.

#### **Galatians 4:8-20**

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted.

Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

#### **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.