

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 11th March 2026

Psalm 38

- 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.
- 3 There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.
- 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head;
they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.
- 5 My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all day long I go around mourning.
- 7 For my loins are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- 8 I am utterly spent and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- 9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.
- 10 My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone
from me.
- 11 My friends and companions stand aloof from
my affliction,
and my neighbours stand far off.
- 12 Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin,
and meditate treachery all day long.
- 13 But I am like the deaf, I do not hear;
like the mute, who cannot speak.
- 14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.
- 15 But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait;
It is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
- 16 For I pray, 'Only do not let them rejoice over
me, those who boast against me when my
foot slips.'
- 17 For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
- 18 I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those who are my foes without cause are
mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- 20 Those who render me evil for good are my
adversaries because I follow after good.

- 21 Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me;
- 22 Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Genesis 49:1-32

Then Jacob called his sons, and said: 'Gather around, that I may tell you what will happen to you in days to come.

Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob;
listen to Israel your father.

'Reuben, you are my firstborn,
my might and the first fruits of my vigour,
excelling in rank and excelling in power.
Unstable as water, you shall no longer excel
because you went up on to your father's bed;
then you defiled it—you went up on to my
couch!

'Simeon and Levi are brothers;
weapons of violence are their swords.
May I never come into their council;
may I not be joined to their company—
for in their anger they killed men,
and at their whim they hamstrung oxen.
Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,
and their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will divide them in Jacob,
and scatter them in Israel.

'Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your
enemies;
your father's sons shall bow down before you.
Judah is a lion's whelp;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion,
like a lioness—who dares rouse him up?
The sceptre shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and the obedience of the peoples is his.
Binding his foal to the vine
and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,
he washes his garments in wine
and his robe in the blood of grapes;
his eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth whiter than milk.

'Zebulun shall settle at the shore of the sea;
he shall be a haven for ships,
and his border shall be at Sidon.

'Issachar is a strong donkey,
lying down between the sheepfolds;
he saw that a resting-place was good,
and that the land was pleasant;
so he bowed his shoulder to the burden,
and became a slave at forced labour.

'Dan shall judge his people
as one of the tribes of Israel.
Dan shall be a snake by the roadside,
a viper along the path,
that bites the horse's heels
so that its rider falls backwards.

'I wait for your salvation, O Lord.

'Gad shall be raided by raiders,
but he shall raid at their heels.

'Asher's food shall be rich,
and he shall provide royal delicacies.

'Naphtali is a doe let loose
that bears lovely fawns.

'Joseph is a fruitful bough,
a fruitful bough by a spring;
his branches run over the wall.

The archers fiercely attacked him;
they shot at him and pressed him hard.

Yet his bow remained taut,
and his arms were made agile
by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob,
by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of
Israel,
by the God of your father, who will help you,
by the Almighty who will bless you
with blessings of heaven above,
blessings of the deep that lies beneath,
blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

The blessings of your father
are stronger than the blessings of the eternal
mountains,
the bounties of the everlasting hills;
may they be on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of him who was set apart from his
brothers.

'Benjamin is a ravenous wolf,
in the morning devouring the prey,
and at evening dividing the spoil.'

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, blessing each one of them with a suitable blessing.

Then he charged them, saying to them, 'I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my ancestors—in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave in the field at Machpelah, near Mamre, in the land of Canaan, in the field that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site. There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried; there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried; and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites.'

Hebrews 6:13-end

When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, 'I will surely bless you and multiply you.' And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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.