

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 20th May 2026

Psalm 2

- 1 Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,
- 3 'Let us burst their bonds asunder,
and cast their cords from us.'
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6 'I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.'
- 7 I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, 'You are my son;
today I have begotten you.'
- 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, and
dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling
- 12 Kiss his feet, or he will be angry, and you will
perish in the way;
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

Numbers 23:13-end

So Balak said to him, 'Come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only part of them, and shall not see them all; then curse them for me from there.' So he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah. He built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Balaam said to Balak, 'Stand here beside your burnt-offerings, while I meet the Lord over there.' The Lord met Balaam, put a word into his mouth, and said, 'Return to Balak, and this is what you shall say.' When he came to him, he was standing beside his burnt-offerings with the officials of Moab. Balak said to him, 'What has the Lord said?' Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying:

'Rise, Balak, and hear;
listen to me, O son of Zippor:
God is not a human being, that he should lie,
or a mortal, that he should change his mind.
Has he promised, and will he not do it?
Has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it?
See, I received a command to bless;
he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.
He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob;
nor has he seen trouble in Israel.
The Lord their God is with them,
acclaimed as a king among them.
God, who brings them out of Egypt,
is like the horns of a wild ox for them.
Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob,
no divination against Israel;
now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel,
"See what God has done!"
Look, a people rising up like a lioness,
and rousing itself like a lion!
It does not lie down until it has eaten the prey
and drunk the blood of the slain.'

Then Balak said to Balaam, 'Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all.' But Balaam answered Balak, 'Did I not tell you, "Whatever the Lord says, that is what I must do"?'

So Balak said to Balaam, 'Come now, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.' So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the waste-land. Balaam said to Balak, 'Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me.' So Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Luke 8:16-25

'No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.'

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, 'Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.' But he said to them, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.'

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

The Collect of the Day

God of wisdom, eternal light,
who shone in the heart of your servant Alcuin,
revealing to him your power and pity:
scatter the darkness of our ignorance
that, with all our heart and mind and strength,
we may seek your face and be brought with all
your saints to your holy presence;
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.