

Psalm & Readings Thursday 14th January 2021

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.

Amos 4

Hear this word, you cows of Bashan
who are on Mount Samaria,
who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,
who say to their husbands, 'Bring something to
drink!'
The Lord God has sworn by his holiness:
The time is surely coming upon you,
when they shall take you away with hooks,

even the last of you with fish-hooks.
Through breaches in the wall you shall leave,
each one straight ahead;
and you shall be flung out into Harmon,
says the Lord.
Come to Bethel—and transgress;
to Gilgal—and multiply transgression;
bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days;
bring a thank-offering of leavened bread,
and proclaim freewill-offerings, publish them;
for so you love to do, O people of Israel!
says the Lord God.
I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
and lack of bread in all your places,
yet you did not return to me,
says the Lord.
And I also withheld the rain from you
when there were still three months to the
harvest;
I would send rain on one city,
and send no rain on another city;
one field would be rained upon,
and the field on which it did not rain withered;
so two or three towns wandered to one town
to drink water, and were not satisfied;
yet you did not return to me,
says the Lord.
I struck you with blight and mildew;
I laid waste your gardens and your vineyards;
the locust devoured your fig trees and your
olive trees;
yet you did not return to me,
says the Lord.
I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of
Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword;
I carried away your horses;
and I made the stench of your camp go up into
your nostrils;
yet you did not return to me,
says the Lord.
I overthrew some of you,
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,

and you were like a brand snatched from the fire;
yet you did not return to me,
says the Lord.
Therefore, thus I will do to you, O Israel;
because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!
For lo, the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind,
reveals his thoughts to mortals,
makes the morning darkness,
and treads on the heights of the earth—
the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!
Is a trumpet blown in a city,
and the people are not afraid?
Does disaster befall a city,
unless the Lord has done it?
Surely the Lord God does nothing,
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.
The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord God has spoken;
who can but prophesy?
Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod,
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, 'Assemble yourselves on Mount Samaria,
and see what great tumults are within it,
and what oppressions are in its midst.'
They do not know how to do right, says the Lord,
those who store up violence and robbery in
their strongholds.
Therefore, thus says the Lord God:
An adversary shall surround the land,
and strip you of your defence;
and your strongholds shall be plundered.
Thus says the Lord: As the shepherd rescues from
the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an
ear, so shall the people of Israel who live in
Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch
and part of a bed.
Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,
says the Lord God, the God of hosts:
On the day I punish Israel for its transgressions,
I will punish the altars of Bethel,
and the horns of the altar shall be cut off
and fall to the ground.
I will tear down the winter house as well as the

summer house;
and the houses of ivory shall perish,
and the great houses shall come to an end,
says the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.
According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys

God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

'He catches the wise in their craftiness',
and again,

'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.'

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.