

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 28th July 2021

### Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.  
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
and was saved from every trouble.  
The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.  
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.  
The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good  
thing.  
Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Which of you desires life,  
and covets many days to enjoy good?  
Keep your tongue from evil,  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.  
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from the  
earth.  
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,  
and rescues them from all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit.  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the Lord rescues them from them all.  
He keeps all their bones;  
not one of them will be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be  
condemned.  
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be  
condemned.

### Ezekial 33:21-end

In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth  
month, on the fifth day of the month, someone  
who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me  
and said, 'The city has fallen.' Now the hand of  
the Lord had been upon me the evening before  
the fugitive came; but he had opened my mouth  
by the time the fugitive came to me in the  
morning; so my mouth was opened, and I was no  
longer unable to speak.  
The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, the  
inhabitants of these waste places in the land of  
Israel keep saying, 'Abraham was only one man,  
yet he got possession of the land; but we are  
many; the land is surely given to us to  
possess.' Therefore say to them, Thus says the  
Lord God: You eat flesh with the blood, and lift up  
your eyes to your idols, and shed blood; shall you  
then possess the land? You depend on your  
swords, you commit abominations, and each of  
you defiles his neighbour's wife; shall you then  
possess the land? Say this to them, Thus says the  
Lord God: As I live, surely those who are in the  
waste places shall fall by the sword; and those  
who are in the open field I will give to the wild  
animals to be devoured; and those who are in  
strongholds and in caves shall die by pestilence. I  
will make the land a desolation and a waste, and  
its proud might shall come to an end; and the  
mountains of Israel shall be so desolate that no  
one will pass through. Then they shall know that I  
am the Lord, when I have made the land a  
desolation and a waste because of all their  
abominations that they have committed.  
As for you, mortal, your people who talk together  
about you by the walls, and at the doors of the

houses, say to one another, each to a neighbour, 'Come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.' They come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not obey them. For flattery is on their lips, but their heart is set on their gain. To them you are like a singer of love songs, one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; they hear what you say, but they will not do it. When this comes—and come it will!—then they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

### **James 3**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.