

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 24th November 2021

### Psalm 112

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures for ever.  
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.  
It is well with those who deal generously and  
lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.  
For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered for ever.  
They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.  
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their  
foes.  
They have distributed freely, they have given to  
the poor;  
their righteousness endures for ever;  
their horn is exalted in honour.  
The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

### Isaiah 19

An oracle concerning Egypt.

See, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud  
and comes to Egypt;  
the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,  
and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within  
them.  
I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,  
and they will fight, one against the other,  
neighbour against neighbour,  
city against city, kingdom against kingdom;  
the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be  
emptied out,  
and I will confound their plans;

they will consult the idols and the spirits of the  
dead

and the ghosts and the familiar spirits;  
I will deliver the Egyptians  
into the hand of a hard master;  
a fierce king will rule over them,  
says the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts.

The waters of the Nile will be dried up,  
and the river will be parched and dry;  
its canals will become foul,  
and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish  
and dry up;  
reeds and rushes will rot away.  
There will be bare places by the Nile,  
on the brink of the Nile;  
and all that is sown by the Nile will dry up,  
be driven away, and be no more.  
Those who fish will mourn;  
all who cast hooks in the Nile will lament,  
and those who spread nets on the water will  
languish.  
The workers in flax will be in despair,  
and the carders and those at the loom will grow  
pale.  
Its weavers will be dismayed,  
and all who work for wages will be grieved.

The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish;  
the wise counsellors of Pharaoh give stupid  
counsel.

How can you say to Pharaoh,  
'I am one of the sages,  
a descendant of ancient kings'?  
Where now are your sages?  
Let them tell you and make known  
what the Lord of hosts has planned against  
Egypt.

The princes of Zoan have become fools,  
and the princes of Memphis are deluded;  
those who are the cornerstones of its tribes  
have led Egypt astray.  
The Lord has poured into them  
a spirit of confusion;  
and they have made Egypt stagger in all its doings  
as a drunkard staggers around in vomit.

Neither head nor tail, palm branch nor reed,  
will be able to do anything for Egypt.

On that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the Lord of hosts raises against them. And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the plan that the Lord of hosts is planning against them.

On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts. One of these will be called the City of the Sun.

On that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the centre of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; when they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a saviour, and will defend and deliver them. The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians; and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day, and will worship with sacrifice and burnt-offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. The Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing; they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their supplications and heal them.

On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

On that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage.'

### **Matthew 10:16-33**

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.