

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Psalm 97

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of
his throne.
Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.
All worshippers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.
Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgements, O God.
For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.
Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Isaiah 17

An oracle concerning Damascus.
See, Damascus will cease to be a city,
and will become a heap of ruins.
Her towns will be deserted for ever;
they will be places for flocks,
which will lie down, and no one will make them
afraid.
The fortress will disappear from Ephraim,
and the kingdom from Damascus;

and the remnant of Aram will be
like the glory of the children of Israel,
says the Lord of hosts.

On that day
the glory of Jacob will be brought low,
and the fat of his flesh will grow lean.
And it shall be as when reapers gather standing
grain
and their arms harvest the ears,
and as when one gleanes the ears of grain
in the Valley of Rephaim.
Gleanings will be left in it,
as when an olive tree is beaten—
two or three berries
in the top of the highest bough,
four or five
on the branches of a fruit tree,
says the Lord God of Israel.

On that day people will regard their Maker, and
their eyes will look to the Holy One of Israel; they
will not have regard for the altars, the work of
their hands, and they will not look to what their
own fingers have made, either the sacred poles or
the altars of incense.

On that day their strong cities will be like the
deserted places of the Hivites and the Amorites,
which they deserted because of the children of
Israel, and there will be desolation.

For you have forgotten the God of your salvation,
and have not remembered the Rock of your
refuge;
therefore, though you plant pleasant plants
and set out slips of an alien god,
though you make them grow on the day that you
plant them,
and make them blossom in the morning that
you sow;
yet the harvest will flee away
on a day of grief and incurable pain.

Ah, the thunder of many peoples,
they thunder like the thundering of the sea!
Ah, the roar of nations,
they roar like the roaring of mighty waters!

The nations roar like the roaring of many waters,
but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far
away,
chased like chaff on the mountains before the
wind
and whirling dust before the storm.
At evening time, lo, terror!
Before morning, they are no more.
This is the fate of those who despoil us,
and the lot of those who plunder us.

Whatever town or village you enter, find out who
in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As
you enter the house, greet it. If the house is
worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is
not worthy, let your peace return to you. If
anyone will not welcome you or listen to your
words, shake off the dust from your feet as you
leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be
more tolerable for the land of Sodom and
Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that
town.

Matthew 9:35-10:15

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the
good news of the kingdom, and curing every
disease and every sickness. When he saw the
crowds, he had compassion for them, because
they were harassed and helpless, like sheep
without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples,
'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are
few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send
out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and
gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast
them out, and to cure every disease and every
sickness. These are the names of the twelve
apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and
his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and
his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew;
Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James
son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the
Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who
betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following
instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles,
and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go
rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As
you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of
heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the
dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You
received without payment; give without payment.
Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no
bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or
a staff; for labourers deserve their food.