

Psalm and Readings Friday 3rd December 2021

Psalm 25

UNTO thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God,
I have put my trust in thee : O let me not be
confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph
over me.

For all they that hope in thee shall not be
ashamed : but such as transgress without a cause
shall be put to confusion.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord : and teach me thy
paths.

Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me : for
thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath
been my hope all the day long.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies :
and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever
of old.

O remember not the sins and offences of my
youth : but according to thy mercy think thou
upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

Gracious and righteous is the Lord : therefore will
he teach sinners in the way.

Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement :
and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his
way.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth :
unto such as keep his covenant and his
testimonies.

For thy Name's sake, O Lord : be merciful unto my
sin, for it is great.

What man is he that feareth the Lord : him shall
he teach in the way that he shall choose.

His soul shall dwell at ease : and his seed shall
inherit the land.

The secret of the Lord is among them that fear
him : and he will shew them his covenant.

Mine eyes are ever looking unto the Lord : for he
shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me : for
I am desolate and in misery.

The sorrows of my heart are enlarged : O bring
thou me out of my troubles.

Look upon my adversity and misery : and forgive
me all my sin.

Consider mine enemies, how many they are : and
they bear a tyrannous hate against me.

O keep my soul, and deliver me : let me not be
confounded, for I have put my trust in thee.

Let perfectness and righteous dealing wait upon
me : for my hope hath been in thee.

Deliver Israel, O God : out of all his troubles.

Isaiah 29:1-14

Ah, Ariel, Ariel,
the city where David encamped!

Add year to year;

let the festivals run their round.

Yet I will distress Ariel,

and there shall be moaning and lamentation,
and Jerusalem shall be to me like an Ariel.

And like David I will encamp against you;

I will besiege you with towers

and raise siege-works against you.

Then deep from the earth you shall speak,

from low in the dust your words shall come;
your voice shall come from the ground like the
voice of a ghost,

and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

But the multitude of your foes shall be like fine
dust,

and the multitude of tyrants like flying chaff.

And in an instant, suddenly,

you will be visited by the Lord of hosts

with thunder and earthquake and great noise,

with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a
devouring fire.

And the multitude of all the nations that fight
against Ariel,

all that fight against her and her stronghold,
and who distress her,

shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.

Just as when a hungry person dreams of eating
and wakes up still hungry,

or a thirsty person dreams of drinking
and wakes up faint, still thirsty,
so shall the multitude of all the nations be
that fight against Mount Zion.

Stupefy yourselves and be in a stupor,
blind yourselves and be blind!
Be drunk, but not from wine;
stagger, but not from strong drink!
For the Lord has poured out upon you
a spirit of deep sleep;
he has closed your eyes, you prophets,
and covered your heads, you seers.

The vision of all this has become for you like the
words of a sealed document. If it is given to those
who can read, with the command, 'Read this',
they say, 'We cannot, for it is sealed.' And if it is
given to those who cannot read, saying, 'Read
this', they say, 'We cannot read.'

The Lord said:
Because these people draw near with their
mouths
and honour me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their worship of me is a human
commandment learned by rote;
so I will again do
amazing things with this people,
shocking and amazing.
The wisdom of their wise shall perish,
and the discernment of the discerning shall be
hidden.

Matthew 13:24-43

He put before them another parable: 'The
kingdom of heaven may be compared to
someone who sowed good seed in his field; but
while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and
sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went
away. So when the plants came up and bore
grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the
slaves of the householder came and said to him,
"Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?
Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He
answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves
said to him, "Then do you want us to go and

gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in
gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat
along with them. Let both of them grow together
until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in
bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into
my barn.'"'

He put before them another parable: 'The
kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that
someone took and sowed in his field; it is the
smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it
is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so
that the birds of the air come and make nests in
its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of
heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed
in with three measures of flour until all of it was
leavened.'

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables;
without a parable he told them nothing. This was
to fulfil what had been spoken through the
prophet:

'I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden from the
foundation of the world.'

Then he left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain
to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He
answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is
the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the
good seed are the children of the kingdom; the
weeds are the children of the evil one, and the
enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest
is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
Just as the weeds are collected and burned up
with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The
Son of Man will send his angels, and they will
collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all
evildoers, and they will throw them into the
furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine
like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let
anyone with ears listen!