

## Psalm and Readings Tuesday 11th January 2022

### Psalm 9

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

When my enemies turned back,  
they stumbled and perished before you.  
For you have maintained my just cause;  
you have sat on the throne giving righteous  
judgement.

You have rebuked the nations, you have  
destroyed the wicked;  
you have blotted out their name for ever and  
ever.

The enemies have vanished in everlasting ruins;  
their cities you have rooted out;  
the very memory of them has perished.

But the Lord sits enthroned for ever,  
he has established his throne for judgement.  
He judges the world with righteousness;  
he judges the peoples with equity.

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
And those who know your name put their trust in  
you,  
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who  
seek you.

Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion.  
Declare his deeds among the peoples.  
For he who avenges blood is mindful of them;  
he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

Be gracious to me, O Lord.  
See what I suffer from those who hate me;  
you are the one who lifts me up from the gates  
of death,  
so that I may recount all your praises,  
and, in the gates of daughter Zion,  
rejoice in your deliverance.

The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;  
in the net that they hid has their own foot been  
caught.

The Lord has made himself known, he has  
executed judgement;  
the wicked are snared in the work of their own  
hands.

The wicked shall depart to Sheol,  
all the nations that forget God.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor perish for ever.

Rise up, O Lord! Do not let mortals prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you.

Put them in fear, O Lord;

let the nations know that they are only human.

### Genesis 1:20-2:3

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms  
of living creatures, and let birds fly above the  
earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created  
the great sea monsters and every living creature  
that moves, of every kind, with which the waters  
swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And  
God saw that it was good. God blessed them,  
saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters  
in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'  
And there was evening and there was morning,  
the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living  
creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things  
and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And  
it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth  
of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and  
everything that creeps upon the ground of every  
kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our  
image, according to our likeness; and let them  
have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over  
the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over  
all the wild animals of the earth, and over every  
creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.  
God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

### **Matthew 21:18-32**

In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, 'May no fruit ever come from you again!' And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, 'How did the fig tree wither at once?' Jesus answered them, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be lifted up and thrown into the sea", it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.'

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you

one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.