

## Psalm and Readings Friday 24th June 2022

### Psalm 50

THE Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken : and called the world, from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof.

Out of Sion hath God appeared : in perfect beauty.

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.

He shall call the heaven from above : and the earth, that he may judge his people.

Gather my saints together unto me : those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness : for God is Judge himself.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak : I myself will testify against thee, O Israel; for I am God, even thy God.

I will not reprove thee because of thy sacrifices, or for thy burnt-offerings : because they were not alway before me.

I will take no bullock out of thine house : nor he-goat out of thy folds.

For all the beasts of the forest are mine : and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls upon the mountains : and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.

If I be hungry, I will not tell thee : for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.

Thinkest thou that I will eat bulls' flesh : and drink the blood of goats?

Offer unto God thanksgiving : and pay thy vows unto the most Highest.

And call upon me in the time of trouble : so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.

But unto the ungodly said God : Why dost thou preach my laws, and takest my covenant in thy mouth;

Whereas thou hatest to be reformed : and hast cast my words behind thee?

When thou sawest a thief, thou consentedst unto him : and hast been partaker with the adulterers.

Thou hast let thy mouth speak wickedness : and with thy tongue thou hast set forth deceit.

Thou satest, and spakest against thy brother : yea, and hast slandered thine own mother's son.

These things hast thou done, and I held my tongue, and thou thoughtest wickedly, that I am even such a one as thyself : but I will reprove thee, and set before thee the things that thou hast done.

O consider this, ye that forget God : lest I pluck you away, and there be none to deliver you.

Whoso offereth me thanks and praise, he honoureth me : and to him that ordereth his conversation right will I shew the salvation of God.

### Malachi 3:1-6

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

### **Luke 3:1-17**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to

them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’