

## Psalm and Readings Thursday 23rd June 2022

### Psalm 37

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he  
will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for  
him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their  
way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit  
the land.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they  
will not be there.  
But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight in abundant prosperity.

The wicked plot against the righteous,  
and gnash their teeth at them;  
but the Lord laughs at the wicked,  
for he sees that their day is coming.

The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows  
to bring down the poor and needy,  
to kill those who walk uprightly;  
their sword shall enter their own heart,  
and their bows shall be broken.

Better is a little that the righteous person has  
than the abundance of many wicked.  
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,  
but the Lord upholds the righteous.

The Lord knows the days of the blameless,  
and their heritage will abide for ever;  
they are not put to shame in evil times,  
in the days of famine they have abundance.

But the wicked perish,  
and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory  
of the pastures;  
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

The wicked borrow, and do not pay back,  
but the righteous are generous and keep giving;  
for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the  
land,  
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Our steps are made firm by the Lord,  
when he delights in our way;  
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,  
for the Lord holds us by the hand.

I have been young, and now am old,  
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken  
or their children begging bread.  
They are ever giving liberally and lending,  
and their children become a blessing.

Depart from evil, and do good;  
so you shall abide for ever.  
For the Lord loves justice;  
he will not forsake his faithful ones.

The righteous shall be kept safe for ever,  
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.  
The righteous shall inherit the land,  
and live in it for ever.

The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,  
and their tongues speak justice.  
The law of their God is in their hearts;  
their steps do not slip.

The wicked watch for the righteous,  
and seek to kill them.  
The Lord will not abandon them to their power,  
or let them be condemned when they are  
brought to trial.

Wait for the Lord, and keep to his way,  
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;  
you will look on the destruction of the wicked.

I have seen the wicked oppressing,  
and towering like a cedar of Lebanon.  
Again I passed by, and they were no more;  
though I sought them, they could not be found.

Mark the blameless, and behold the upright,  
for there is posterity for the peaceable.  
But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;  
the posterity of the wicked shall be cut off.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;  
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.  
The Lord helps them and rescues them;  
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves  
them,  
because they take refuge in him.

### **Joshua 23**

A long time afterwards, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies all around, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, Joshua summoned all Israel, their elders and heads, their judges and officers, and said to them, 'I am now old and well advanced in years; and you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the Lord your God who has fought for you. I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west. The Lord your God will push them back before you, and drive them out of your sight; and you shall possess their land, as the Lord your God promised you. Therefore be very steadfast to observe and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right nor to the left, so that you may not be mixed with these nations left here among you, or make mention of the names of their gods, or swear by them, or serve them, or bow yourselves down to them, but hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations; and as for

you, no one has been able to withstand you to this day. One of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, as he promised you. Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God. For if you turn back, and join the survivors of these nations left here among you, and intermarry with them, so that you marry their women and they yours, know assuredly that the Lord your God will not continue to drive out these nations before you; but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a scourge on your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land that the Lord your God has given you.

'And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one thing has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you; all have come to pass for you, not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the bad things, until he has destroyed you from this good land that the Lord your God has given you. If you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he enjoined on you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land that he has given to you.'

### **Luke 12:32-40**

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to

eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’