

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 3rd August 2022

### Psalm 119:1–32

Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.  
Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways.  
You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.  
O that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!  
Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your  
commandments.  
I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous ordinances.  
I will observe your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.

How can young people keep their way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.  
With my whole heart I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.  
I treasure your word in my heart,  
so that I may not sin against you.  
Blessed are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes.  
With my lips I declare  
all the ordinances of your mouth.  
I delight in the way of your decrees  
as much as in all riches.  
I will meditate on your precepts,  
and fix my eyes on your ways.  
I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

Deal bountifully with your servant,  
so that I may live and observe your word.  
Open my eyes, so that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.  
I live as an alien in the land;  
do not hide your commandments from me.  
My soul is consumed with longing  
for your ordinances at all times.  
You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,  
who wander from your commandments;

take away from me their scorn and contempt,  
for I have kept your decrees.  
Even though princes sit plotting against me,  
your servant will meditate on your statutes.  
Your decrees are my delight,  
they are my counsellors.

My soul clings to the dust;  
revive me according to your word.  
When I told of my ways, you answered me;  
teach me your statutes.  
Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.  
My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word.  
Put false ways far from me;  
and graciously teach me your law.  
I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your ordinances before me.  
I cling to your decrees, O Lord;  
let me not be put to shame.  
I run the way of your commandments,  
for you enlarge my understanding.

### 1 Samuel 11

About a month later, Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, 'Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.' But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, 'On this condition I will make a treaty with you, namely that I gouge out everyone's right eye, and thus put disgrace upon all Israel.' The elders of Jabesh said to him, 'Give us seven days' respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you.' When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the hearing of the people; and all the people wept aloud.

Now Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen; and Saul said, 'What is the matter with the people, that they are weeping?' So they told him the message from the inhabitants of Jabesh. And

the spirit of God came upon Saul in power when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. He took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by messengers, saying, 'Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!' Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out as one. When he mustered them at Bezek, those from Israel were three hundred thousand, and those from Judah seventy thousand. They said to the messengers who had come, 'Thus shall you say to the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead: "Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have deliverance."' When the messengers came and told the inhabitants of Jabesh, they rejoiced. So the inhabitants of Jabesh said, 'Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you.' The next day Saul put the people in three companies. At the morning watch they came into the camp and cut down the Ammonites until the heat of the day; and those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

The people said to Samuel, 'Who is it that said, "Shall Saul reign over us?" Give them to us so that we may put them to death.' But Saul said, 'No one shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has brought deliverance to Israel.'

Samuel said to the people, 'Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.' So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the Lord, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

## **Luke 22:39–46**

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'