

## Psalm and Readings Wednesday 22nd November 2023

### Psalm 56

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;

all day long foes oppress me;  
my enemies trample on me all day long,  
for many fight against me.

O Most High, when I am afraid,  
I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I am not afraid;  
what can flesh do to me?

All day long they seek to injure my cause;  
all their thoughts are against me for evil.  
They stir up strife, they lurk,  
they watch my steps.

As they hoped to have my life,  
so repay them for their crime;  
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle.  
Are they not in your record?

Then my enemies will retreat  
on the day when I call.  
This I know, that God is for me.

In God, whose word I praise,  
in the Lord, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I am not afraid.

What can a mere mortal do to me?

My vows to you I must perform, O God;  
I will render thank-offerings to you.  
For you have delivered my soul from death,  
and my feet from falling,  
so that I may walk before God  
in the light of life.

### Isaiah 10:20-32

On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on the one who struck them, but will lean on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though your people Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will

return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in all the earth.

Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: O my people, who live in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrians when they beat you with a rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did. For in a very little while my indignation will come to an end, and my anger will be directed to their destruction. The Lord of hosts will wield a whip against them, as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb; his staff will be over the sea, and he will lift it as he did in Egypt. On that day his burden will be removed from your shoulder, and his yoke will be destroyed from your neck.

He has gone up from Rimmon,  
he has come to Aiath;  
he has passed through Migron,  
at Michmash he stores his baggage;  
they have crossed over the pass,  
at Geba they lodge for the night;  
Ramah trembles,  
Gibeah of Saul has fled.  
Cry aloud, O daughter Gallim!  
Listen, O Laishah!  
Answer her, O Anathoth!  
Madmenah is in flight,  
the inhabitants of Gebim flee for safety.  
This very day he will halt at Nob,  
he will shake his fist  
at the mount of daughter Zion,  
the hill of Jerusalem.

### Matthew 8:1-13

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.'

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.' And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of  
eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great  
glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and  
glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen