

Psalm and Readings Friday 26th April 2024

Psalm 33

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten
strings.
Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the
Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe
of him.
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to
nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the Lord stands for ever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his
heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.
From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.
A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear
him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Exodus 35:20 – 36:7

Then all the congregation of the Israelites
withdrew from the presence of Moses. And they
came, everyone whose heart was stirred, and
everyone whose spirit was willing, and brought
the Lord's offering to be used for the tent of
meeting, and for all its service, and for the sacred
vestments. So they came, both men and women;
all who were of a willing heart brought brooches
and earrings and signet rings and pendants, all
sorts of gold objects, everyone bringing an
offering of gold to the Lord. And everyone who
possessed blue or purple or crimson yarn or fine
linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or fine
leather, brought them. Everyone who could make
an offering of silver or bronze brought it as the
Lord's offering; and everyone who possessed
acacia wood of any use in the work, brought it. All
the skilful women spun with their hands, and
brought what they had spun in blue and purple
and crimson yarns and fine linen; all the women
whose hearts moved them to use their skill spun
the goats' hair. And the leaders brought onyx
stones and gems to be set in the ephod and the
breastpiece, and spices and oil for the light, and
for the anointing-oil, and for the fragrant incense.
All the Israelite men and women whose hearts
made them willing to bring anything for the work
that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be
done, brought it as a freewill-offering to the Lord.

Then Moses said to the Israelites: See, the Lord
has called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur,
of the tribe of Judah; he has filled him with divine
spirit, with skill, intelligence, and knowledge in
every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to
work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones
for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of
craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him
and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of

Dan. He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of artisan or skilled designer.

Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilful to whom the Lord has given skill and understanding to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.

Moses then called Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilful to whom the Lord had given skill, everyone whose heart was stirred to come to do the work; and they received from Moses all the freewill-offerings that the Israelites had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill-offerings every morning, so that all the artisans who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task being performed, and said to Moses, 'The people are bringing much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.' So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp: 'No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.' So the people were restrained from bringing; for what they had already brought was more than enough to do all the work.

Luke 4:14 – 30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

A prayer for this time of transition

Faithful and loving God
we hold our Benefice before you in this time of transition.

Be with us in our waiting, in our expectation and in our preparation.

Be with our new incumbent as he or she also waits, expects and prepares.

Bring us together in love for you and for this Benefice,

and be our light for the way ahead.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the
life:

raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen