

## Psalm and Readings Thursday 2nd May 2024

### Psalm 57

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
until the destroying storms pass by.  
I cry to God Most High,  
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.  
He will send from heaven and save me,  
he will put to shame those who trample on me.  
God will send forth his steadfast love and his  
faithfulness.

I lie down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongues sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my path,  
but they have fallen into it themselves.

My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast.

I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul!  
Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.  
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the  
peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.  
For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;  
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

### Numbers 13:1 – 3, 17 – end

The Lord said to Moses, 'Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites; from each of their ancestral tribes you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.' So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the Lord, all of them leading men among the Israelites.

Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, 'Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it

are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land.' Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. They went up into the Negeb, and came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the Anakites, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) And they came to the Wadi Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also brought some pomegranates and figs. That place was called the Wadi Eshcol, because of the cluster that the Israelites cut down from there.

At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, 'We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large; and besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the land of the Negeb; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and along the Jordan.'

But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.' Then the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we are.' So they brought to the Israelites an unfavourable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, 'The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.'

## **Luke 5:27 – end**

After this he went out and saw a tax-collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax-collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax-collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.'

Then they said to him, 'John's disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink.' Jesus said to them, 'You cannot make wedding-guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.' He also told them a parable: 'No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, "The old is good."' "

## **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**

Ever-living God,  
whose servant Athanasius testified  
to the mystery of the Word made flesh for our salvation:  
help us, with all your saints,  
to contend for the truth  
and to grow into the likeness of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen