

Psalm and Readings Thursday 24th October 2024

Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

They have all gone astray, they are all alike
perverse;
there is no one who does good, no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon the Lord?

There they shall be in great terror,
for God is with the company of the righteous.
You would confound the plans of the poor,
but the Lord is their refuge.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from
Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his
people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Judith 7:19-end

The Israelites then cried out to the Lord their
God, for their courage failed, because all their
enemies had surrounded them, and there was no
way of escape from them. The whole Assyrian
army, their infantry, chariots, and cavalry,
surrounded them for thirty-four days, until all the
water containers of every inhabitant of Bethulia
were empty; their cisterns were going dry, and on
no day did they have enough water to drink, for
their drinking water was rationed. Their children
were listless, and the women and young men
fainted from thirst and were collapsing in the
streets of the town and in the gateways; they no
longer had any strength.

Then all the people, the young men, the women,
and the children, gathered around Uzziah and the
rulers of the town and cried out with a loud voice,
and said before all the elders, 'Let God judge
between you and us! You have done us a great

injury in not making peace with the Assyrians. For
now we have no one to help us; God has sold us
into their hands, to be strewn before them in
thirst and exhaustion. Now summon them and
surrender the whole town as booty to the army of
Holofernes and to all his forces. For it would be
better for us to be captured by them. We shall
indeed become slaves, but our lives will be
spared, and we shall not witness our little ones
dying before our eyes, and our wives and children
drawing their last breath. We call to witness
against you heaven and earth and our God, the
Lord of our ancestors, who punishes us for our
sins and the sins of our ancestors; do today the
things that we have described!'

Then great and general lamentation arose
throughout the assembly, and they cried out to
the Lord God with a loud voice. But Uzziah said to
them, 'Courage, my brothers and sisters! Let us
hold out for five days more; by that time the Lord
our God will turn his mercy to us again, for he will
not forsake us utterly. But if these days pass by,
and no help comes for us, I will do as you say.'

Then he dismissed the people to their various
posts, and they went up on the walls and towers
of their town. The women and children he sent
home. In the town they were in great misery.

2 Timothy 1:15 – 2:13

You are aware that all who are in Asia have
turned away from me, including Phygelus and
Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the
household of Onesiphorus, because he often
refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain;
when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for
me and found me —may the Lord grant that he
will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And
you know very well how much service he
rendered in Ephesus.

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

The Collect of the Day

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.