

Psalm and Readings Thursday 21st November 2024

Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I call to you,
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;
for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me abide in your tent for ever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.
For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who
fear your name.

Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!
May he be enthroned for ever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to
watch over him!

So I will always sing praises to your name,
as I pay my vows day after day.

Daniel 9:20-end

While I was speaking, and was praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God on behalf of the holy mountain of my God— while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen before in a vision, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. He came and said to me, 'Daniel, I have now come out to give you wisdom and understanding. At the beginning of your supplications a word went out, and I have come to declare it, for you are greatly beloved. So consider the word and understand the vision:

'Seventy weeks are decreed for your people and your holy city: to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand: from the time that the word went out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of an anointed prince, there shall be seven weeks; and for sixty-two weeks it shall

be built again with streets and moat, but in a troubled time. After the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing, and the troops of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. He shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall make sacrifice and offering cease; and in their place shall be an abomination that desolates, until the decreed end is poured out upon the desolator.'

Revelation 12

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

'Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown
down,
who accuses them day and night before our
God.
But they have conquered him by the blood of the
Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of
death.
Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you
with great wrath,
because he knows that his time is short!'

So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown
down to the earth, he pursued the woman who
had given birth to the male child. But the woman
was given the two wings of the great eagle, so
that she could fly from the serpent into the
wilderness, to her place where she is nourished
for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from
his mouth the serpent poured water like a river
after the woman, to sweep her away with the
flood. But the earth came to the help of the
woman; it opened its mouth and swallowed the
river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.
Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and
went off to make war on the rest of her children,
those who keep the commandments of God and
hold the testimony of Jesus.

Then the dragon took his stand on the sand of the
seashore.

The Collect of the Day

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of
so many and great dangers, that by reason of the
frailty of our nature we cannot always stand
upright; Grant to us such strength and protection,
as may support us in all dangers, and carry us
through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.