

Psalm and Readings Tuesday 17th December 2024

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to
dishonour
who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!'
turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, 'God is great!'
But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

Isaiah 50

Thus says the Lord:
Where is your mother's bill of divorce
with which I put her away?
Or which of my creditors is it
to whom I have sold you?
No, because of your sins you were sold,
and for your transgressions your mother was
put away.
Why was no one there when I came?
Why did no one answer when I called?
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?
Or have I no power to deliver?
By my rebuke I dry up the sea,
I make the rivers a desert;
their fish stink for lack of water,
and die of thirst.
I clothe the heavens with blackness,
and make sackcloth their covering.
The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the
beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his servant,
who walks in darkness
and has no light,
yet trusts in the name of the Lord
and relies upon his God?
But all of you are kindlers of fire,
lighters of firebrands.
Walk in the flame of your fire,
and among the brands that you have kindled!
This is what you shall have from my hand:
you shall lie down in torment.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-end

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to
respect those who labour among you, and have
charge of you in the Lord and admonish you;
esteem them very highly in love because of their
work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we
urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers,
encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be
patient with all of them. See that none of you
repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to
one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray

without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the
words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast
to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you
entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be
kept sound and blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us.

Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss.
I solemnly command you by the Lord that this
letter be read to all of them.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your
way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.