

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 11th December 2024

Psalm 62

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
Their only plan is to bring down a person of
prominence.

They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honour;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all according to their work.

Isaiah 47

Come down and sit in the dust,
virgin daughter Babylon!
Sit on the ground without a throne,
daughter Chaldea!

For you shall no more be called
tender and delicate.

Take the millstones and grind meal,
remove your veil,
strip off your robe, uncover your legs,
pass through the rivers.

Your nakedness shall be uncovered,
and your shame shall be seen.

I will take vengeance,
and I will spare no one.

Our Redeemer—the Lord of hosts is his name—
is the Holy One of Israel.

Sit in silence, and go into darkness,
daughter Chaldea!

For you shall no more be called
the mistress of kingdoms.

I was angry with my people,
I profaned my heritage;

I gave them into your hand,
you showed them no mercy;
on the aged you made your yoke
exceedingly heavy.

You said, 'I shall be mistress for ever',
so that you did not lay these things to heart
or remember their end.

Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures,
who sit securely,
who say in your heart,

'I am, and there is no one besides me;
I shall not sit as a widow
or know the loss of children'—

both these things shall come upon you
in a moment, in one day:
the loss of children and widowhood
shall come upon you in full measure,
in spite of your many sorceries
and the great power of your enchantments.

You felt secure in your wickedness;
you said, 'No one sees me.'

Your wisdom and your knowledge
led you astray,

and you said in your heart,

'I am, and there is no one besides me.'

But evil shall come upon you,

which you cannot charm away;

disaster shall fall upon you,

which you will not be able to ward off;

and ruin shall come on you suddenly,

of which you know nothing.

Stand fast in your enchantments

and your many sorceries,

with which you have laboured from your youth;

perhaps you may be able to succeed,
perhaps you may inspire terror.
You are wearied with your many consultations;
let those who study the heavens
stand up and save you,
those who gaze at the stars
and at each new moon predict
what shall befall you.

See, they are like stubble,
the fire consumes them;
they cannot deliver themselves
from the power of the flame.
No coal for warming oneself is this,
no fire to sit before!
Such to you are those with whom you have
laboured,
who have trafficked with you from your youth;
they all wander about in their own paths;
there is no one to save you.

1 Thessalonians 2:13-end

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God and oppose everyone by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins; but God's wrath has overtaken them at last.

As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy!

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.