

## Psalm and Readings Tuesday 9th December 2025

### Psalm 56

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;  
all day long foes oppress me;  
my enemies trample on me all day long,  
for many fight against me.

O Most High, when I am afraid,  
I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust;  
I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?

All day long they seek to injure my cause;  
all their thoughts are against me for evil.

They stir up strife, they lurk,  
they watch my steps.

As they hoped to have my life,  
so repay them for their crime;  
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle.  
Are they not in your record?

Then my enemies will retreat  
on the day when I call.  
This I know, that God is for me.

In God, whose word I praise,  
in the Lord, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I am not afraid.  
What can a mere mortal do to me?

My vows to you I must perform, O God;  
I will render thank-offerings to you.  
For you have delivered my soul from death,  
and my feet from falling,  
so that I may walk before God in the light of life.

### Isaiah 30:19-end

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
you shall weep no more. He will surely be  
gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he  
hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may  
give you the bread of adversity and the water of  
affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself  
any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.  
And when you turn to the right or when you turn  
to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind  
you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' Then you  
will defile your silver-covered idols and your gold-  
plated images. You will scatter them like filthy  
rags; you will say to them, 'Away with you!'

He will give rain for the seed with which you sow  
the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground,  
which will be rich and plenteous. On that day  
your cattle will graze in broad pastures; and the  
oxen and donkeys that till the ground will eat  
silage, which has been winnowed with shovel and  
fork. On every lofty mountain and every high hill  
there will be brooks running with water—on a  
day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.  
Moreover, the light of the moon will be like the  
light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be  
sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day  
when the Lord binds up the injuries of his people,  
and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

See, the name of the Lord comes from far away,  
burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke;  
his lips are full of indignation,  
and his tongue is like a devouring fire;  
his breath is like an overflowing stream  
that reaches up to the neck—  
to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction,  
and to place on the jaws of the peoples a bridle  
that leads them astray.

You shall have a song as in the night when a holy  
festival is kept; and gladness of heart, as when  
one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the  
mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel. And  
the Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard  
and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in  
furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a  
cloudburst and tempest and hailstones. The  
Assyrian will be terror-stricken at the voice of the  
Lord, when he strikes with his rod. And every  
stroke of the staff of punishment that the Lord  
lays upon him will be to the sound of timbrels and  
lyres; battling with brandished arm he will fight  
with him. For his burning-place has long been  
prepared; truly it is made ready for the king, its  
pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in  
abundance; the breath of the Lord, like a stream  
of sulphur, kindles it.

### Matthew 14:13-end

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from  
there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But  
when the crowds heard it, they followed him on  
foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he

saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

### **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.