

## Psalm and Readings Thursday 19th February 2026

### Psalm 57

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
until the destroying storms pass by.
- 2 I cry to God Most High,  
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me,  
he will put to shame those who trample on  
me.  
God will send forth his steadfast love and his  
faithfulness.
- 4 I lie down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongues sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.
- 6 They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my path,  
but they have fallen into it themselves.
- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast.  
I will sing and make melody.
- 8 Awake, my soul!  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn.
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the  
peoples;  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is as high as the  
heavens;  
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

### Genesis 39

Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer  
Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and  
Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the  
guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the  
Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.  
The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a  
successful man; he was in the house of his  
Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord  
was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he  
did to prosper in his hands.

So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended  
him; he made him overseer of his house and put  
him in charge of all that he had. From the time  
that he made him overseer in his house and over  
all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's  
house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord  
was on all that he had, in house and field. So he  
left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with  
him there, he had no concern for anything but the  
food that he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking.  
And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes  
on Joseph and said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused  
and said to his master's wife, 'Look, with me here,  
my master has no concern about anything in the  
house, and he has put everything that he has in  
my hand. He is not greater in this house than I  
am, nor has he kept back anything from me  
except yourself, because you are his wife. How  
then could I do this great wickedness, and sin  
against God?' And although she spoke to Joseph  
day after day, he would not consent to lie beside  
her or to be with her. One day, however, when he  
went into the house to do his work, and while no  
one else was in the house, she caught hold of his  
garment, saying, 'Lie with me!' But he left his  
garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.  
When she saw that he had left his garment in her  
hand and had fled outside, she called out to the  
members of her household and said to them,  
'See, my husband has brought among us a  
Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with  
me, and I cried out with a loud voice; and when  
he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left  
his garment beside me, and fled outside.' Then  
she kept his garment by her until his master came  
home, and she told him the same story, saying,  
'The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought  
among us, came in to me to insult me; but as  
soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his  
garment beside me, and fled outside.'

When his master heard the words that his wife  
spoke to him, saying, 'This is the way your servant  
treated me', he became enraged. And Joseph's  
master took him and put him into the prison, the  
place where the king's prisoners were confined;  
he remained there in prison. But the Lord was  
with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he  
gave him favour in the sight of the chief jailer.

The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

### **Galatians 2:11-end**

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, 'If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?'

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.