

Psalm and Readings Ash Wednesday 18th February 2026

Psalm 38

- 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.
- 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
- 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.
- 5 My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness;
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.
- 7 For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- 8 I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- 9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.
- 10 My heart throbs, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.
- 11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbours stand far off.
- 12 Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all day long.
- 13 But I am like the deaf, I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.
- 14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no retort.
- 15 But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
- 16 For I pray, 'Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips.'
- 17 For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.
- 18 I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- 20 Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

- 21 Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me;
- 22 make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

Daniel 9:3-6, 17-19

Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying,

'Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary. Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name. We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!'

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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.