



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for  
Morning Prayer Services  
according to  
The Anglican Prayer book  
of Australia  
14-20 December 2020

## Monday 14 December

### Psalms 108; 109.20-30

#### 108

- 1 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:  
I will sing and make melody.
- 2 Awake my soul, awake lute and harp:  
for I will awaken the morning.
- 3 I will give you thanks, O Lord, among the peoples:  
I will sing your praise among the nations.
- 4 For the greatness of your mercy reaches to the heavens:  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens:  
and let your glory be over all the earth;
- 6 That those whom you love may be delivered:  
O save us by your right hand, and answer me.
- 7 God has said in his holy place:  
'I will exult and divide Shechem,  
I will parcel out the valley of Succoth.
- 8 'Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine:  
Ephraim is my helmet, and Judah my rod of command.
- 9 'Moab is my wash-bowl, over Edom will I cast my shoe:  
against Philistia will I shout in triumph.
- 10 Who will lead me into the fortified city:  
who will bring me into Edom?
- 11 Have you not cast us off, O God?:  
you go not out with our armies.
- 12 Give us your help against the enemy:  
for human help is vain.
- 13 By the power of our God we shall do valiantly:  
for it is he that will tread down our enemies.

#### 109

- 20 Act for me, O Lord my God, for your name's sake:  
and deliver me, as your steadfast love is good.
- 21 For I am poor and needy:  
and my heart writhes within me.
- 22 I fade like a lengthening shadow:  
I am shaken off like a locust.
- 23 My knees are weak from fasting:  
my flesh grows lean and shrunken.
- 24 I have become the scorn of my enemies:  
and when they see me, they toss their heads in derision.
- 25 Help me, O Lord my God:  
and save me for your mercy's sake,
- 26 That all may know it was your hand:  
that you, O Lord, have done it.
- 27 Though they curse, yet give me your blessing:  
and those that come against me will be put to shame,  
and your servant shall rejoice.
- 28 Let those that oppose me be covered with disgrace:  
let them wear their shame as a garment.

- 29 And I will give the Lord great thanks with my mouth:  
and praise him in the midst of a multitude.
- 30 For the Lord will stand at the right hand of the poor:  
to save them from those that would condemn them.

### **Mark 9.2-32**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. <sup>11</sup> Then they asked him, 'Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' <sup>12</sup> He said to them, 'Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.' <sup>14</sup> When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. <sup>16</sup> He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' <sup>17</sup> Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; <sup>18</sup> and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' <sup>19</sup> He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' <sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. <sup>22</sup> It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!' <sup>26</sup> After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. <sup>28</sup> When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' <sup>29</sup> He said to them, 'This kind can come out only through prayer.' <sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

## Tuesday 15 December

### Psalm 104.1-25

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul:  
    O Lord my God, how great you are!
- 2 Clothed with majesty and honour:  
    wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You have stretched out the heavens like a tent-cloth:  
    and laid the beams of your dwelling upon their waters;
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot:  
    and ride upon the wings of the wind;
- 5 You make the winds your messengers:  
    and flames of fire your ministers;
- 6 You have set the earth on its foundations:  
    so that it shall never be moved.
- 7 The deep covered it as with a mantle:  
    the waters stood above the hills.
- 8 At your rebuke they fled:  
    at the voice of your thunder they hurried away;
- 9 They went up to the mountains,  
    they went down by the valleys:  
    to the place which you had appointed for them.
- 10 You fixed a limit which they may not pass:  
    they shall not return again to cover the earth.
- 11 You send springs into the gullies:  
    which run between the hills;
- 12 They give drink to every beast of the field:  
    and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 13 Beside them the birds of the air build their nests:  
    and sing among the branches.
- 14 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high:  
    and the earth is filled by the fruits of your work.
- 15 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle:  
    and all green things for the creatures that serve us.
- 16 You bring food out of the earth:  
    and wine that makes glad the human heart,
- 17 Oil to give us a shining countenance:  
    and bread to strengthen the heart.
- 18 The trees of the Lord are well-watered:  
    the cedars of Lebanon that he has planted,
- 19 Where the birds build their nests:  
    and the stork makes her home in the pine-tops.
- 20 The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats:  
    and the crags a cover for the conies.
- 21 You created the moon to mark the seasons:  
    and the sun knows the hour of its setting.
- 22 You make darkness, and it is night:  
    in which all the beasts of the forest move by stealth.
- 23 The lions roar for their prey:  
    seeking their food from God.

- 24 When the sun rises, they retire:  
and lay themselves down in their dens.
- 25 Human beings go out to their work:  
and to their labour until the evening.

### **Mark 9.33-50**

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' <sup>38</sup> John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> 'For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

## Wednesday 16 December

### Psalm 105.1-22

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:  
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
- 2 Sing to him, O sing praises:  
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
- 3 Exult in his holy name:  
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength:  
O seek his face continually.
- 5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:  
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant:  
O children of Jacob his chosen one.
- 7 For he is the Lord our God:  
and his judgements are in all the earth.
- 8 He has remembered his covenant for ever:  
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,
- 9 The covenant that he made with Abraham:  
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- 11 Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:  
to be the portion of your inheritance',
- 12 And that when they were but few:  
little in number and aliens in the land.
- 13 They wandered from nation to nation:  
from one people and kingdom to another.
- 14 He suffered no one to do them wrong:  
but reproved even kings for their sake,
- 15 Saying 'Touch not my anointed:  
and do my prophets no harm.'
- 16 Then he called down a famine on the land:  
and destroyed the bread that was their stay.
- 17 But he had sent a man ahead of them:  
Joseph who was sold into slavery,
- 18 Whose feet they fastened with fetters:  
and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.
- 19 Till the time that his words proved true:  
he was tested by the Lord's command.
- 20 Then the king sent and loosed him:  
the ruler of nations set him free;
- 21 He made him master of his household:  
and ruler over all his possessions,
- 22 To rebuke his officers at will:  
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

## **Mark 10.1-16**

<sup>1</sup> He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them. <sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' <sup>3</sup> He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' <sup>4</sup> They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." <sup>7</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' <sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' <sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

## Thursday 17 December

### Psalm 106.1-24

- 1 Praise the Lord;  
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord:  
or fully voice his praise?
- 3 Blessed are those who act according to justice:  
who at all times do the right.
- 4 Remember me, O Lord,  
when you visit your people with your favour:  
and come to me also with your salvation,
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your chosen:  
that I may rejoice with the rejoicing of your people,  
and exult with those who are your own.
- 6 We have sinned like our ancestors:  
we have acted perversely and done wrong.
- 7 Our forebears when they were in Egypt:  
took no heed of your wonders;
- 8 They did not remember  
the multitude of your loving-kindnesses:  
but they rebelled at the Red Sea.
- 9 Nevertheless, he saved them for his name's sake:  
that he might make known his power.
- 10 He commanded the Red Sea, and it dried up:  
and he led them through the deep as through a desert.
- 11 He delivered them from the hand of their adversary:  
and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.
- 12 The waters closed over their oppressors:  
so that not one was left alive.
- 13 Then they believed his words:  
and sang him songs of praise.
- 14 But in a little while they forgot what he had done:  
and would wait for his counsel no more.
- 15 Greed took hold of them in the desert:  
and they put God to the test in the wilderness.
- 16 So he gave them that which they desired:  
but sent a wasting sickness among them.
- 17 Then they grew envious of Moses in the camp:  
and of Aaron, the holy one of the Lord;
- 18 Whereupon the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan:  
it closed over the company of Abiram;
- 19 Fire flared out against their number:  
and flame devoured the ungodly.
- 20 At Horeb they made themselves a calf:  
and bowed down in worship to an image.
- 21 And so they exchanged the glory of God:  
for the likeness of an ox that eats hay.



- 22 They forgot God who was their saviour:  
that had done such great things in Egypt,  
23 Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham:  
and his terrible deeds at the Red Sea.  
24 Therefore he thought to destroy them:  
had not Moses his servant stood before him in the breach,  
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

### **Mark 10.46-11.11**

- <sup>10.46</sup> They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.  
<sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'  
<sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'  
<sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.'  
<sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.  
<sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.'  
<sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.  
<sup>11.1</sup> When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples  
<sup>2</sup> and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.  
<sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."'  
<sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,  
<sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?'  
<sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.  
<sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.  
<sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.  
<sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'  
<sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

## Friday 18 December

### Psalm 107.1-22

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
for his loving mercy is for ever.
- 2 Let the Lord's redeemed say so:  
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
- 3 And gathered in from every land,  
from the east and from the west:  
from the north and from the south.
- 4 Some went astray in the wilderness and in the desert:  
and found no path to an inhabited city;
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty:  
and their heart fainted within them.
- 6 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:  
and he took them out of their trouble.
- 7 He led them by the right path:  
till they came to an inhabited city.
- 8 Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:  
and for the wonders that he does  
for the children of Adam;
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty:  
and fills the hungry with good things.
- 10 Some sat in darkness and in deadly shadow:  
bound fast in affliction and iron,
- 11 Because they had rebelled against the words of God:  
and scorned the purposes of the Most High.
- 12 So he bowed down their hearts with affliction:  
they tripped headlong, with none to help them.
- 13 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:  
and he took them out of their trouble.
- 14 He brought them out from darkness and deadly shadow:  
and broke their chains in two.
- 15 Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:  
and for the wonders that he does  
for the children of Adam;
- 16 For he shatters the doors of bronze:  
and cleaves the bars of iron.
- 17 Fools were far gone in transgression:  
and because of their sins were afflicted.
- 18 They sickened at any food:  
and had come to the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:  
and he took them out of their trouble.
- 20 He sent his word and healed them:  
and saved their life from the Pit.
- 21 Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:  
and for the wonders that he does  
for the children of Adam;
- 22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving:  
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.

## **Mark 11.12-26**

<sup>12</sup> On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry.

<sup>13</sup> Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

<sup>14</sup> He said to it, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard it.

<sup>15</sup> Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves;

<sup>16</sup> and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

<sup>17</sup> He was teaching and saying, 'Is it not written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations"?

But you have made it a den of robbers.'

<sup>18</sup> And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

<sup>19</sup> And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

<sup>20</sup> In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter remembered and said to him, 'Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.'

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God.

<sup>23</sup> Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.

<sup>24</sup> So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

<sup>25</sup> 'Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.'

## Saturday 19 December

### Psalms 110; 111

#### 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord:  
    'Sit at my right hand,  
    until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 The Lord commits to you the sceptre of your power:  
    reign from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 Noble are you, from the day of your birth  
upon the holy hill:  
    radiant are you, even from the womb,  
    in the morning dew of your youth.
- 4 The Lord has sworn and will not turn back:  
    'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
- 5 The king shall stand at your right hand, O Lord:  
    and shatter kings in the day of his wrath.
- 6 Glorious in majesty, he shall judge among the nations:  
    and shatter heads over a wide land.
- 7 He shall slake his thirst from the brook beside the way:  
    therefore shall he lift up his head.

#### 111

- 1 O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord  
with my whole heart:  
    in the company of the upright  
    and among the congregation.
- 2 The works of the Lord are great:  
    and studied by all who take delight in them.
- 3 His deeds are majestic and glorious:  
    and his righteousness stands for ever.
- 4 His marvellous acts have won him a name  
to be remembered:  
    the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He gives food to those that fear him:  
    he remembers his covenant for ever.
- 6 He showed his people the power of his acts:  
    in giving them the heritage of the heathen.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just:  
    and all his commandments are sure;
- 8 They stand firm for ever and ever:  
    they are done in faithfulness and in truth.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people,  
he ordained his covenant for ever:  
    holy is his name and worthy to be feared.
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and of good understanding are those  
that keep his commandments:  
    his praise shall endure for ever.

## Mark 11.27-12.12

<sup>11.27</sup> Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him

<sup>28</sup> and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?'

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, 'I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

<sup>30</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.'

<sup>31</sup> They argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say, "Why then did you not believe him?"'

<sup>32</sup> But shall we say, "Of human origin"?'—they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet.

<sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

<sup>12.1</sup> Then he began to speak to them in parables. 'A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watch-tower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

<sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

<sup>4</sup> And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted.

<sup>5</sup> Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed.

<sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

<sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours."

<sup>8</sup> So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

<sup>9</sup> What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others.

<sup>10</sup> Have you not read this scripture:

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>11</sup> this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes"?''

<sup>12</sup> When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

## Sunday 20 December

### Psalm 89.26-38

- 26 'I will set the hand of his dominion  
upon the Western Sea:  
and his right hand shall stretch  
to the streams of Mesopotamia.
- 27 'He will call to me "You are my Father:  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation."
- 28 'I will make him my first-born son:  
and highest among the kings of the earth.
- 29 'I will ever maintain my loving-kindness toward him:  
and my covenant with him shall stand firm.
- 30 'I will establish his line for ever:  
and his throne like the days of heaven.
- 31 'If his children forsake my law:  
and will not walk in my judgements;
- 32 'If they profane my statutes:  
and do not keep my commandments,
- 33 'Then I will punish their rebellion with the rod:  
and their iniquity with blows.
- 34 'But I will not cause my loving-kindness  
to cease from him:  
nor will I betray my faithfulness.
- 35 'I will not profane my covenant:  
or alter what has passed from my lips.
- 36 'Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness:  
I will not prove false to David.
- 37 'His posterity shall endure for ever:  
and his throne be as the sun before me;
- 38 'Like the moon that is established for ever:  
and stands in the heavens for evermore.'

**Mark 12.35-37**

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, ‘How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David?’

<sup>36</sup> David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,  
“The Lord said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

<sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?’ And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

