



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for
Morning Prayer Services

according to

The Anglican Prayer book
of Australia

28 December 2020 - 3 January 2021

Monday 28 December

Psalm 78.1-30

- 1 Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
- 2 For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
- 3 What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
- 4 We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.
- 5 He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
- 6 That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,
- 8 And not be as their forebears,
a stubborn and rebellious generation:
a generation that did not set their heart aright,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.
- 9 The children of Ephraim, armed with the bow:
turned back in the day of battle.
- 10 They did not keep God's covenant,
they refused to walk in his law:
they forgot what he had done,
and the wonders he had shown them.
- 11 For he did marvellous things
in the sight of their ancestors:
in the land of Egypt, in the country of Zoan.
- 12 He divided the sea and let them pass through:
he made the waters stand up in a heap.
- 13 In the daytime he led them with a cloud:
and all night long with the light of fire.
- 14 He cleft rocks in the wilderness:
and gave them drink in abundance
as from springs of water.
- 15 He brought streams out of the rock:
and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.
- 16 But for all this they sinned yet more against him:
and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.
- 17 They wilfully put God to the test:
and demanded food for their appetite.
- 18 They spoke against God, and said:
'Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?'

- 19 'He indeed struck the rock,
so that the waters gushed and the streams overflowed:
but can he also give bread,
or provide meat for his people?'
- 20 When the Lord heard it he was angry,
and a fire was kindled against Jacob:
his wrath blazed against Israel.
- 21 For they put no trust in God:
nor would they believe his power to save.
- 22 Then he commanded the clouds above:
and opened the doors of heaven.
- 23 He rained down manna for them to eat:
and gave them the grain of heaven.
- 24 So they ate the bread of angels:
and he sent them food in abundance.
- 25 He stirred up the south east wind in the heavens:
and guided it by his power.
- 26 He rained down meat upon them thick as dust:
and winged birds like the sands of the sea.
- 27 He made them fall into the midst of their camp:
and all about their tents.
- 28 So they ate and were well-filled:
for he had given them what they desired.
- 29 But before they had satisfied their craving:
while the food was still in their mouths,
- 30 The anger of God blazed up against them:
and he slew their strongest men,
and laid low the youth of Israel.

1 Peter 4.12-19

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

¹³ But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker.

¹⁶ Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.

¹⁷ For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And

'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?'

¹⁹ Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Tuesday 29 December

Psalm 145

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my king:
I will bless your name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you:
and praise your name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord, and wonderfully worthy to be praised:
his greatness is past searching out.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another:
and declare your mighty acts.
- 5 As for me, I will be talking
of the glorious splendour of your majesty:
I will tell the story of your marvellous works.
- 6 All people shall speak of the power of your terrible deeds:
and I will proclaim your greatness.
- 7 Their lips shall flow with the remembrance
of your abundant goodness:
they shall shout for joy at your righteousness.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate:
slow to anger and of great goodness.
- 9 The Lord is loving to every one of us:
and his mercy is over all his works.
- 10 All creation praises you, O Lord:
and your faithful servants bless your name.
- 11 They speak of the glory of your kingdom:
and tell of your great might,
- 12 That the whole earth may know your mighty acts:
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom:
and your dominion endures through all generations.
- 14 The Lord upholds all those who stumble:
and raises up those that are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you in hope:
and you give them their food in due season;
- 16 You open wide your hand:
and fill all things living with your bounteous gift.
- 17 The Lord is just in all his ways:
and faithful in all his dealings.
- 18 The Lord is near to all who call upon him:
to all who call upon him in truth.
- 19 He will fulfil the desire of those that fear him:
he will hear their cry, and save them.
- 20 The Lord preserves all those that love him:
but the wicked he will utterly destroy.
- 21 My mouth shall speak the praises of the Lord:
and let all flesh bless his holy name, for ever and ever.

John 1.35-51

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Wednesday 30 December

Psalms 148; 149

148

- 1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:
O praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all his angels:
O praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon:
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, you highest heaven:
and you waters that are above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for he commanded and they were made.
- 6 He established them for ever and ever:
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.
- 7 O praise the Lord from the earth:
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, mist and snow:
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;
- 9 Mountains and all hills:
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth, and all peoples:
princes, and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens:
old folk and children together.
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord:
for his name alone is exalted.
- 14 His glory is above earth and heaven:
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.
- 15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

149

- 1 O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song:
O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.
- 3 Let them praise him in the dance:
let them sing his praise with timbrel and with harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes delight in his people:
he adorns the meek with his salvation.
- 5 Let his faithful ones exult in his glory:
let them sing for joy upon their beds.
- 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouths:
and a two-edged sword in their hands,
- 7 To execute vengeance on the nations:
and chastisement upon the peoples,
- 8 To bind their kings in chains:
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

9 To visit upon them the judgement that is decreed:
such honour belongs to all his faithful servants.
Praise the Lord.

John 2.1-12

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

Thursday 31 December

Psalm 83.1-8

- 1 Hold not your peace, O God:
O God, be not silent or unmoved.
- 2 See how your enemies make uproar:
how those that hate you have lifted up their heads.
- 3 For they lay shrewd plots against your people:
they scheme against those whom you have cherished.
- 4 'Come', they say, 'let us destroy them,
that they may no longer be a nation:
that the very name of Israel
may be remembered no more.'
- 5 With one mind they conspire together:
they make alliance against you,
- 6 The tribes of Edom and the Ishmaelites:
the people of Moab and the Hagarites,
- 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek:
Philistia, and the inhabitants of Tyre;
- 8 Asshur also is joined with them:
and lends a friendly arm to the children of Lot.

John 2.13-25

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. ²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Friday 1 January

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise the Lord, O sing praises, you that are his servants:
O praise the name of the Lord.
- 2 Let the name of the Lord be blessed:
from this time forward and for ever.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down:
let the name of the Lord be praised.
- 4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations:
and his glory is above the heavens.
- 5 Who can be likened to the Lord our God:
in heaven or upon the earth,
- 6 Who has his dwelling so high:
yet condescends to look on things beneath?
- 7 He raises the lowly from the dust:
and lifts the poor from out of the dungheap;
- 8 He gives them a place among the princes:
even among the princes of his people.
- 9 He causes the barren woman to keep house:
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Praise the Lord.

Colossians 3.12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Saturday 2 January

Psalms 5; 6

5

- 1 Hear my words, O Lord, give heed to my groaning:
listen to my cry, you that are my king and my God.
- 2 In the morning when I pray to you,
surely you will hear my voice:
at daybreak I lay my prayers before you, and look up.
- 3 For you are not a God who
takes pleasure in wickedness:
nor can any evil dwell with you.
- 4 The boastful cannot stand in your sight:
you hate all those that work mischief.
- 5 Those who speak lies you destroy:
you abhor the treacherous, O Lord,
and those that are stained with blood.
- 6 But because of your great goodness
I will come into your house:
I will bow down toward your holy temple
in awe and fear of you.
- 7 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness,
for my enemies lie in wait:
make straight your way before me.
- 8 For there is no truth in their mouth:
and within they are eaten up by malice.
- 9 Their throat is an open sepulchre:
and their tongue speaks smooth and flattering words.
- 10 Destroy them, O God,
let them fall by their own contriving:
cast them out for their many offences,
for they have rebelled against you.
- 11 But let all who put their trust in you rejoice:
let them shout with joy for ever.
- 12 Be the defender of those who love your name:
let them exult because of you.
- 13 For you will bless, O Lord, those that are righteous:
you will cover them with your favour as with a shield.

6

- 1 O Lord, rebuke me not in your indignation:
nor chasten me in your fierce displeasure.
- 2 Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak:
O Lord, heal me, for my very bones are afraid.
- 3 My soul also is greatly troubled:
and you, Lord—how long will you delay?
- 4 Turn again, O Lord, and deliver my soul:
O save me for your mercy's sake.
- 5 For in death no one remembers you:
and who can give you thanks from the grave?

- 6 I am wearied with my groaning:
every night I drown my bed with weeping,
and water my couch with my tears.
- 7 My eyes waste away for sorrow:
they grow dim because of all my enemies.
- 8 Away from me, all you that do evil:
for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.
- 9 The Lord has heard my supplication:
the Lord will receive my prayer.
- 10 All my enemies shall be put to shame and
greatly dismayed:
they shall turn back and be confounded in a moment.

John 3.1-21

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Sunday 3 January

Psalm 104.11-24

- 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.

Ephesians 4.1-16

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹ (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

