



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for  
Morning Prayer Services

according to

The Anglican Prayer book  
of Australia

31 August–6 September 2020

## Monday 31 August

### 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.

## **Acts 23.12-24**

<sup>12</sup> In the morning the Jews joined in a conspiracy and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than forty who joined in this conspiracy. <sup>14</sup> They went to the chief priests and elders and said, 'We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now then, you and the council must notify the tribune to bring him down to you, on the pretext that you want to make a more thorough examination of his case. And we are ready to do away with him before he arrives.' <sup>16</sup> Now the son of Paul's sister heard about the ambush; so he went and gained entrance to the barracks and told Paul. <sup>17</sup> Paul called one of the centurions and said, 'Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to report to him.' <sup>18</sup> So he took him, brought him to the tribune, and said, 'The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you; he has something to tell you.' <sup>19</sup> The tribune took him by the hand, drew him aside privately, and asked, 'What is it that you have to report to me?' <sup>20</sup> He answered, 'The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more thoroughly into his case. <sup>21</sup> But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him. They have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they kill him. They are ready now and are waiting for your consent.' <sup>22</sup> So the tribune dismissed the young man, ordering him, 'Tell no one that you have informed me of this.' <sup>23</sup> Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, 'Get ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. <sup>24</sup> Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and take him safely to Felix the governor.'

## Tuesday 1 July

### Psalms 1; 2

- 1  
1 Blessed are they  
who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:  
nor followed the way of sinners,  
nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.
- 2 But their delight is in the law of the Lord:  
and on that law will they ponder day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:  
that yield their fruit in due season.
- 4 Their leaves also shall not wither:  
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.
- 5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:  
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.
- 6 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up  
at the judgement:  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 7 For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:  
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
- 2  
1 Why are the nations in tumult:  
and why do the peoples cherish a vain dream?
- 2 The kings of the earth rise up  
and the rulers conspire together:  
against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,
- 3 'Let us break their bonds asunder:  
let us throw off their chains from us.'
- 4 He that dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn:  
the Lord will hold them in derision.
- 5 Then will he speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury:  
'I, the Lord, have set up my king on Zion my holy hill.'
- 6 I will announce the Lord's decree,  
that which he has spoken:  
'You are my son, this day have I begotten you.
- 7 'Ask of me,  
and I will give you the nations for your inheritance:  
the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.
- 8 'You may break them with a rod of iron:  
and shatter them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'
- 9 Now therefore be wise, O kings:  
be advised, you that are judges of the earth.
- 10 Serve the Lord with awe,  
and govern yourselves in fear and trembling:  
lest he be angry, and you perish in your course.
- 11 For his wrath is quickly kindled:  
blessed are those that turn to him for refuge.

## **Acts 23.25-24.9**

<sup>23.25</sup> He wrote a letter to this effect: <sup>26</sup> 'Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. <sup>27</sup> This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman citizen, I came with the guard and rescued him. <sup>28</sup> Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council. <sup>29</sup> I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.' <sup>31</sup> So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. <sup>33</sup> When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. <sup>34</sup> On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, 'I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.' Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod's headquarters. <sup>24.1</sup> Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney, a certain Tertullus, and they reported their case against Paul to the governor. <sup>2</sup> When Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: 'Your Excellency, because of you we have long enjoyed peace, and reforms have been made for this people because of your foresight. <sup>3</sup> We welcome this in every way and everywhere with utmost gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But, to detain you no further, I beg you to hear us briefly with your customary graciousness. <sup>5</sup> We have, in fact, found this man a pestilent fellow, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. <sup>6</sup> He even tried to profane the temple, and so we seized him. <sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself you will be able to learn from him concerning everything of which we accuse him.' <sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the charge by asserting that all this was true.

## Wednesday 2 September

### Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:  
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:  
and our tongue with singing.
- 3 Then said they among the heathen:  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:  
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:  
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 Those who sow in tears:  
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:  
shall come again in gladness,  
bringing their sheaves with them.

## **Revelation 6.9-11**

<sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given;

<sup>10</sup> they cried out with a loud voice, 'Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?'

<sup>11</sup> They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow-servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.

## Thursday 3 September

### Psalm 9

- 1 I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:  
I will tell of all the wonders you have done.
- 2 I will rejoice and be glad in you:  
I will make my songs to your name, O Most High.
- 3 For my enemies are driven back:  
they stumble and perish at your presence.
- 4 You have maintained my cause and my right:  
you sat enthroned as a righteous judge.
- 5 You rebuked the heathen nations,  
you brought the wicked to destruction:  
you blotted out their name for ever and ever.
- 6 The strongholds of the enemy are made  
a perpetual desolation:  
you plucked up their cities,  
and even their memory has perished.
- 7 The Lord confounds them; but the Lord endures  
for ever:  
he has set up his throne for judgement.
- 8 He shall judge the world with righteousness:  
and deal true justice to the peoples.
- 9 The Lord is a strong tower to those that are oppressed:  
he is a tower of strength in time of need.
- 10 All who heed your name will trust in you:  
for you have never forsaken those that seek you.
- 11 O sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion:  
tell among the peoples what great things he has done.
- 12 For he that avenges blood has remembered the poor:  
he has not forgotten their cry.
- 13 The Lord has been merciful toward me,  
he saw what I suffered from my foes:  
he raised me up again from the gates of death,
- 14 That I might tell all your praises in the gates of Zion:  
that I might rejoice in your deliverance.
- 15 The nations have sunk into the pit they dug for others:  
in the very snare they laid is their foot taken;
- 16 The Lord has declared himself and upheld the right:  
the wicked are trapped in the work of their own hands.
- 17 The wicked shall be given over to death:  
and all the nations that forget God.
- 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten:  
nor shall the hope of the poor perish for ever.
- 19 Arise, Lord, let no human power prevail:  
let the nations be judged before you.
- 20 Put them in fear, O Lord:  
and let the nations know they are but human.



## **Acts 25.1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> where the chief priests and the leaders of the Jews gave him a report against Paul. They appealed to him <sup>3</sup> and requested, as a favour to them against Paul, to have him transferred to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, planning an ambush to kill him along the way. <sup>4</sup> Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and that he himself intended to go there shortly. <sup>5</sup> 'So', he said, 'let those of you who have the authority come down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them accuse him.' <sup>6</sup> After he had stayed among them for not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea; the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. <sup>7</sup> When he arrived, the Jews who had gone down from Jerusalem surrounded him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. <sup>8</sup> Paul said in his defence, 'I have in no way committed an offence against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against the emperor.' <sup>9</sup> But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favour, asked Paul, 'Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and be tried there before me on these charges?' <sup>10</sup> Paul said, 'I am appealing to the emperor's tribunal; this is where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you very well know. <sup>11</sup> Now if I am in the wrong and have committed something for which I deserve to die, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can turn me over to them. I appeal to the emperor.' <sup>12</sup> Then Festus, after he had conferred with his council, replied, 'You have appealed to the emperor; to the emperor you will go.'

## Friday 4 September

### Psalms 11; 12

#### 11

- 1 In the Lord I have found my refuge:  
how then can you say to me  
'Flee like a bird to the mountains;
- 2 'Look how the wicked make ready the bow,  
and notch their arrows upon the string:  
to shoot from the darkness at the true of heart;
- 3 'If the foundations are destroyed:  
what can the righteous do?'
- 4 The Lord is in his holy place,  
the Lord is enthroned in heaven:  
his eyes search out, his glance tries the children of Adam.
- 5 He tries the righteous and the wicked:  
and those that delight in violence his soul abhors.
- 6 He will rain down coals of fire and brimstone  
upon the wicked:  
a scorching wind shall be their cup to drink.
- 7 For the Lord is righteous and loves righteous acts:  
the upright shall see his face.

#### 12

- 1 Help, Lord, for there is not one godly person left:  
the faithful have vanished from among  
the children of Adam.
- 2 Everyone tells lies to their neighbour:  
they flatter with their lips,  
but speak from a double heart.
- 3 If only the Lord would cut off all flattering lips:  
and the tongue that speaks so proudly!
- 4 They say 'By our tongues we shall prevail:  
our lips are our servants—who is lord over us?'
- 5 Because of the oppression of the poor,  
because of the groaning of the needy:  
'I will arise', says the Lord,  
'and set them in safety from those that  
snarl after them.'
- 6 The words of the Lord are pure,  
as silver refined in a crucible:  
as gold that is seven times purified in the fire.
- 7 You will surely guard us, O Lord:  
and shield us for ever from this evil generation,
- 8 Though the ungodly strut on every side:  
though the vilest lord it over the children of Adam.

## **Acts 25.13-27**

<sup>13</sup> After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus. <sup>14</sup> Since they were staying there for several days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, 'There is a man here who was left in prison by Felix. <sup>15</sup> When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me about him and asked for a sentence against him. <sup>16</sup> I told them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had met the accusers face to face and had been given an opportunity to make a defence against the charge. <sup>17</sup> So when they met here, I lost no time, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought.

<sup>18</sup> When the accusers stood up, they did not charge him with any of the crimes that I was expecting. <sup>19</sup> Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. <sup>20</sup> Since I was at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. <sup>21</sup> But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of his Imperial Majesty, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to the emperor.' <sup>22</sup> Agrippa said to Festus, 'I would like to hear the man myself.' 'Tomorrow', he said, 'you will hear him.' <sup>23</sup> So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then Festus gave the order and Paul was brought in. <sup>24</sup> And Festus said, 'King Agrippa and all here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish community petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. <sup>25</sup> But I found that he had done nothing deserving death; and when he appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him. <sup>26</sup> But I have nothing definite to write to our sovereign about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write— <sup>27</sup> for it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner without indicating the charges against him.'

## Saturday 5 September

### Psalms 15; 16

#### 15

- 1 Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:  
or who may dwell upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life  
and does the thing which is right:  
who speaks the truth from the heart,  
and has not slandered with the tongue;
- 3 Who has done no evil to a friend:  
nor vented abuse against a neighbour;
- 4 In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:  
but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;
- 5 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:  
and will not go back on that oath;
- 6 Who has not put money to usury:  
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things:  
shall never be overthrown.

#### 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God:  
for in you have I taken refuge.
- 2 I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:  
and all my good depends on you.
- 3 As for those who are held holy on the earth:  
the other gods in whom people delight,
- 4 Though the idols are many that they run after:  
their offerings of blood I will not offer,  
nor take their name upon my lips.
- 5 The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:  
you hold my lot in your hands.
- 6 The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:  
and a fair land is my possession.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:  
at night also he has instructed my heart.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me:  
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:  
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 10 For you will not give me over to the power of death:  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life:  
in your presence is the fulness of joy,  
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

## Acts 26.1-18

<sup>1</sup> Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have permission to speak for yourself.' Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself: <sup>2</sup> 'I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defence today against all the accusations of the Jews, <sup>3</sup> because you are especially familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg of you to listen to me patiently. <sup>4</sup> 'All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. <sup>6</sup> And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, <sup>7</sup> a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! <sup>8</sup> Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? <sup>9</sup> 'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. <sup>11</sup> By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. <sup>12</sup> 'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, <sup>13</sup> when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads." <sup>15</sup> I asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

## Sunday 6 September

### Psalm 95

- 1 O come, let us sing out to the Lord:  
let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his face with thanksgiving:  
and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God:  
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth:  
and the peaks of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his and he made it:  
his hands moulded dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down:  
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
- 7 For he is the Lord our God:  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 8 Today if only you would hear his voice—  
'Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah:  
as on that day at Massah in the wilderness;
- 9 'When your forebears tested me:  
put me to proof, though they had seen my works.
- 10 'Forty years long I loathed that generation and said:  
"It is a people who err in their hearts,  
for they do not know my ways";
- 11 'Of whom I swore in my wrath:  
"They shall not enter my rest."

**Romans 13.11–14**

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

