



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for
Morning Prayer Services
according to
The Anglican Prayer book
of Australia
20-26 December 2021

Monday

Psalms 114; 115

114

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt:
and the house of Jacob from among a people
of an alien tongue,
- 2 Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled:
Jordan was driven back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams:
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.

115

- 1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us
but to your name give the glory:
for the sake of your faithfulness
and your loving-kindness.
- 2 Why should the heathen say 'Where is their God?':
our God is in heaven, he does whatever he wills.
- 3 As for their idols, they are silver and gold:
the work of human hands.
- 4 They have mouths, but speak not:
they have eyes, but they cannot see.
- 5 They have ears, yet hear nothing:
they have noses, but cannot smell.
- 6 Hands they have, but handle nothing,
feet, but they do not walk:
they make no sound with their throats.
- 7 Those who make them shall be like them:
so shall everyone that trusts in them.
- 8 O Israel, trust in the Lord:
he is your help and your shield.
- 9 O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord:
he is your help and your shield.
- 10 You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord:
he is your help and your shield.
- 11 The Lord has remembered us and he will bless us:
he will bless the house of Israel,
he will bless the house of Aaron.
- 12 He will bless all those that fear the Lord:
both high and low together.

- 13 May the Lord increase you greatly:
you and your children after you.
- 14 The blessing of the Lord be upon you:
he that made heaven and earth.
- 15 As for the heavens, they are the Lord's:
but the earth he has given to the children of Adam.
- 16 The dead do not praise the Lord:
nor do any that go down to silence.
- 17 But we will bless the Lord:
both now and for evermore. O praise the Lord.

Mark 12.13-27

¹³ Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay them, or should we not?' But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' ¹⁶ And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him. ¹⁸ Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; ²¹ and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; ²² none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. ²³ In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.' ²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? ²⁷ He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.'

Tuesday

Psalms 121; 122; 123

121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I find help?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble:
and he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Be sure he who has charge of Israel:
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself is your keeper:
the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day:
nor shall the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will defend you from all evil:
it is he who will guard your life.
- 8 The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.

122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
- 3 Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
- 4 There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.
- 7 Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.
- 8 For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.

123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes:
you who are enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master:
or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God:
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have had our fill of derision.
- 5 Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease:
and with the contempt of the proud.

Mark 12.28-40

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?'

²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

³¹ The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

³² Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other";

³³ and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, 'How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David?

³⁶ 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.' "

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

³⁸ As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places,

³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets!

⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

Wednesday

Psalm 118.1-18

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim:
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Let the house of Aaron proclaim:
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 4 Let those who fear the Lord proclaim:
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 5 In my danger I called to the Lord:
he answered and set me free.
- 6 The Lord is on my side, I shall not fear:
what can flesh and blood do to me?
- 7 The Lord is at my side as my helper:
I shall see the downfall of my enemies.
- 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord:
than to trust to flesh and blood:
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord:
than to put your trust in princes.
- 10 All the nations surrounded me:
but in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 11 They surrounded, they surrounded me on every side:
but in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 12 They swarmed about me like bees,
they blazed like fire among the thorns:
in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 13 I was pressed so hard that I almost fell:
but the Lord was my helper.
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.
- 15 The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.
- 16 The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
- 17 I shall not die but live:
and proclaim the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has disciplined me hard:
but he has not given me over to death.

Mark 12.41-13.13

^{12.41} He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.' ^{13.1} As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' ² Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' ³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. ⁹ 'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰ And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ¹³ and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Thursday

Psalms 124; 125; 126

124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side,
now may Israel say:
if the Lord had not been on our side,
when our enemies rose against us,
- 2 Then they would have swallowed us alive:
when their anger was kindled against us.
- 3 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,
and the torrent gone over us:
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.
- 4 But praised be the Lord:
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.
- 5 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.
- 6 Our help is in the name of the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.

125

- 1 Those who put their trust in the Lord
shall be as Mount Zion:
which cannot be shaken, but endures for ever.
- 2 As the mountains stand about Jerusalem,
so stands the Lord about his people:
from this time forward for evermore.
- 3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway
over the land apportioned to the righteous:
lest the righteous set their hands to do evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good:
to those that are upright in heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
let the Lord lead them away with the evildoers:
and in Israel let there be peace.

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.

Mark 13.14-37

- ¹⁴ 'But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains;
- ¹⁵ someone on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away;
- ¹⁶ someone in the field must not turn back to get a coat.
- ¹⁷ Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days!
- ¹⁸ Pray that it may not be in winter.
- ¹⁹ For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.
- ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days.
- ²¹ And if anyone says to you at that time, "Look! Here is the Messiah!" or "Look! There he is!"—do not believe it.
- ²² False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.
- ²³ But be alert; I have already told you everything.
- ²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
- ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- ²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory.
- ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
- ²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
- ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
- ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
- ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- ³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
- ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
- ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
- ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
- ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Friday

Psalms 130; 131; 133

130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice;
- 2 O let your ears consider well:
the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:
who then, O Lord, could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you:
so that you shall be feared.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:
and in his word is my hope.
- 6 My soul looks for the Lord:
more than watchmen for the morning,
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:
and with him is ample redemption.
- 8 He will redeem Israel:
from the multitude of their sins.

131

- 1 O Lord, my heart is not proud:
nor are my eyes haughty.
- 2 I do not busy myself in great matters:
or in things too wonderful for me.
- 3 But I have calmed and quieted my soul
like a weaned child upon its mother's breast:
like a child on its mother's breast is my soul within me.
- 4 O Israel, trust in the Lord:
from this time forward and for ever.

133

- 1 Behold how good and how lovely it is:
when families live together in unity.
- 2 It is fragrant as oil upon the head,
that runs down over the beard:
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,
that ran down over the collar of his robe.
- 3 It is like a dew of Hermon:
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.
- 4 For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:
which is life for evermore.

Galatians 3.23-4.7

^{3.23} Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. ^{4.1} My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; ² but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. ³ So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Saturday

Psalm 132.10-18

- 10 The Lord has sworn to David:
 an oath which he will not break;
- 11 'One who is the fruit of your body:
 I will set upon your throne.
- 12 'If your children will keep my covenant
 and the commands which I teach them:
 their children also shall sit upon your throne for ever.'
- 13 For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself:
 he has desired it for his habitation.
- 14 'This shall be my resting-place for ever:
 here will I dwell, for my delight is in her.
- 15 'I will bless her provisions with abundance:
 I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 16 'I will clothe her priests with salvation:
 and her faithful ones shall shout for joy.
- 17 'There will I make a horn to sprout
 for the family of David:
 I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 18 'As for his enemies, I will cover them with shame:
 but upon his head shall his crown be bright.'

Matthew 1.18-2.6

^{1.18} Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

^{2.1} In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Sunday

Psalm 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.

Galatians 4.22-28

²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman.

²³ One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise.

²⁴ Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery.

²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

²⁶ But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother.

²⁷ For it is written,

‘Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,
burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs;
for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than the children of the one who is married.’

²⁸ Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac.

