



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for
Morning Prayer Services
according to
The Anglican Prayer book
of Australia

31 May - 6 June 2021

Monday

Psalm 84

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling-place:
O Lord God of hosts!
- 2 My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 The sparrow has found her a home,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;
- 6 Who, going through the valley of dryness,
find there a spring from which to drink:
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.
- 7 They go from strength to strength:
they appear, every one of them,
before the God of gods in Zion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:
give ear, O God of Jacob.
- 9 Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:
and look upon the face of your anointed.
- 10 One day in your courts is better than a thousand:
I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- 11 For the Lord God is a light and a shield,
the Lord gives favour and honour:
and no good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in innocence.
- 12 O Lord God of hosts:
blessed are those who put their trust in you.

Acts 9.36-41

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'
³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

Tuesday

Psalm 74

- 1 O Lord our God, why cast us off so utterly:
 why does your anger burn
 against the sheep of your pasture?
- 2 Remember your congregation,
whom you took to yourself of old:
 the people that you redeemed to be your own possession,
 and Mount Zion where you have dwelt.
- 3 Rouse yourself and go to the utter ruins:
 to all the harm that the enemy has done in the sanctuary.
- 4 Your adversaries have made uproar
in the place appointed for your praise:
 they have set up their standards in triumph.
- 5 They have destroyed on every side:
 like those who take axes up to a thicket of trees.
- 6 All the carved woodwork they have broken down:
 and smashed it with hammers and hatchets.
- 7 They have set fire to your sanctuary:
 and defiled to the ground
 the dwelling-place of your name.
- 8 They have said in their hearts
‘Let us make havoc of them’:
 they have burned down
 all the holy places of God in the land.
- 9 We see no signs, there is not one prophet left:
 there is none who knows how long these things shall be.
- 10 How long shall the adversary taunt you, O God:
 shall the enemy blaspheme your name for ever?
- 11 Why do you hold back your hand:
 why do you keep your right hand in your bosom?
- 12 Yet God is my king from of old:
 who wrought deliverance upon the earth.
- 13 You divided the sea by your might:
 you shattered the heads of the dragons in the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan:
 and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert waste.
- 15 You cleft open spring and fountain:
 you dried up the everflowing waters.
- 16 The day is yours, and so also is the night:
 you have established the moon and the sun.
- 17 You set all the boundaries of the earth:
 you created winter and summer.
- 18 Remember, O Lord, the taunts of the enemy:
 how a mindless people have blasphemed your name.
- 19 Do not give to the wild beasts the soul that praises you:
 do not forget for ever the life of your afflicted.

- 20 Look on all that you have made:
for it is full of darkness,
and violence inhabits the earth.
- 21 Let not the oppressed and reviled turn away rejected:
but let the poor and needy praise your name.
- 22 Arise, O God, plead your own cause:
remember how a mindless people taunt you all day long.
- 23 Do not forget the clamour of your adversaries:
or how the shouting of your enemies ascends continually.

Acts 4.23-31

²³ After they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

²⁴ When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, 'Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them,

²⁵ it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

"Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah."

²⁷ For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,

²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness,

³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'

³¹ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

Wednesday

Psalm 77

- 1 I call to my God, I cry out toward him:
I call to my God, and surely he will answer.
- 2 In the day of my distress I seek the Lord,
I stretch out my hands to him by night:
my soul is poured out without ceasing,
it refuses all comfort.
- 3 I think upon God and groan aloud:
I muse, and my spirit faints.
- 4 You hold my eyelids open:
I am so dazed that I cannot flee.
- 5 I consider the times that are past:
I remember the years of long ago.
- 6 At night I am grieved to the heart:
I ponder, and my spirit makes search;
- 7 'Will the Lord cast us off for ever:
will he show us his favour no more?
- 8 'Is his mercy clean gone for ever:
and his promise come to an end for all generations?
- 9 'Has God forgotten to be gracious:
has he shut up his pity in displeasure?'
- 10 And I say 'Has the right hand of the Most High
lost its strength:
has the arm of the Lord changed?'
- 11 I will declare the mighty acts of the Lord:
I will call to mind your wonders of old.
- 12 I will think on all that you have done:
and meditate upon your works.
- 13 Your way, O God, is holy:
who is so great a god as our God?
- 14 You are the God that works wonders:
you made known your power among the nations;
- 15 By your mighty arm you redeemed your people:
the children of Jacob and Joseph.
- 16 The waters saw you, O God,
the waters saw you and were afraid:
the depths also were troubled.
- 17 The clouds poured out water, the heavens spoke:
and your arrows darted forth.
- 18 The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind:
your lightnings lit the world,
the earth shuddered and quaked.
- 19 Your way was in the sea, your path in the great waters:
and your footsteps were not seen.
- 20 You led your people like sheep:
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Acts 4.32-5.11

^{4.32} Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). ³⁷ He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ^{5.1} But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; ² with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ 'Ananias,' Peter asked, 'why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!' ⁵ Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him. ⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter said to her, 'Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price.' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.' ⁹ Then Peter said to her, 'How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.' ¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Thursday

Psalm 78.16-38

- 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.
- 31 But for all this they sinned yet more:
and put no faith in his wonders.
- 32 So he ended their days like a breath:
and their years with sudden terror.
- 33 When he struck them down, then they sought him:
they turned, and sought eagerly for God.
- 34 They remembered that God was their rock:
that God Most High was their redeemer.
- 35 But they lied to him with their mouths:
and dissembled with their tongues;
- 36 For their hearts were not fixed upon him:
nor were they true to his covenant.

- 37 Yet he, being merciful, forgave their iniquity
and did not destroy them:
many times he turned his anger aside,
and would not wholly arouse his fury.
- 38 He remembered that they were but flesh:
like a wind that passes, and does not return.

Acts 5.12-26

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶ A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. ¹⁷ Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, ¹⁸ arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, ²⁰ 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.' ²¹ When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, ²³ 'We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.' ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. ²⁵ Then someone arrived and announced, 'Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!' ²⁶ Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

Friday

Psalm 80

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;
- 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.
- 3 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- 6 You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- 8 You brought a vine out of Egypt:
you drove out the nations, and planted it in.
- 9 You cleared the ground before it:
and it struck root and filled the land.
- 10 The hills were covered with its shadow:
and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.
- 11 It stretched out its branches to the sea:
and its tender shoots to the Great River.
- 12 Why then have you broken down its walls:
so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?
- 13 The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:
and the locusts from the wild places devour it.
- 14 Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:
look down from heaven, and see.
- 15 Bestow your care upon this vine:
the stock which your own right hand has planted.
- 16 As for those that burn it with fire and cut it down:
let them perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
- 17 Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man
whom you made so strong for yourself.
- 18 And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
- 19 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Acts 5.27-42

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' ³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. ³⁵ Then he said to them, 'Fellow-Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!' They were convinced by him, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name. ⁴² And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Saturday

Psalms 82; 84

82

- 1 God has stood up in the council of heaven:
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement.
- 2 'How long will you judge unjustly:
and favour the cause of the wicked?
- 3 'Judge for the poor and fatherless:
vindicate the afflicted and oppressed.
- 4 'Rescue the poor and needy:
and save them from the hands of the wicked.
- 5 'They do not know, they do not understand,
they walk about in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 'Therefore I say, "Though you are gods:
and all of you children of the Most High,
- 7 "Nevertheless you shall die like a mortal:
and fall like one of the princes."
- 8 Arise, O God, and judge the earth:
for you shall take all nations as your possession.

84

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling-place:
O Lord God of hosts!
- 2 My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 The sparrow has found her a home,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;
- 6 Who, going through the valley of dryness,
find there a spring from which to drink:
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.
- 7 They go from strength to strength:
they appear, every one of them,
before the God of gods in Zion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:
give ear, O God of Jacob.
- 9 Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:
and look upon the face of your anointed.
- 10 One day in your courts is better than a thousand:
I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

- 11 For the Lord God is a light and a shield,
the Lord gives favour and honour:
and no good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in innocence.
- 12 O Lord God of hosts:
blessed are those who put their trust in you.

Acts 6.1-7

¹ Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ² And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. ³ Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴ while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' ⁵ What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Sunday

Psalm 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.

Mark 4.1-12

¹ Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land.

² He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

³ 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.

⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.

⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away.

⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

⁹ And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

¹⁰ When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

¹¹ And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables;

¹² in order that

"they may indeed look, but not perceive,
and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." '

