

## Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Monday, May 18**

**Psalm 89: Part II** *Tunc locutus es*

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; \* with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast \* and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, \* nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him \* and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \* and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend \* from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \* my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

27 I will make him my firstborn \* and higher than the kings of the earth.

28 I will keep my love for him for ever, \* and my covenant will stand firm for him.

29 I will establish his line for ever \* and his throne as the days of heaven."

30 "If his children forsake my law \* and do not walk according to my judgments;

31 If they break my statutes \* and do not keep my commandments;

32 I will punish their transgressions with a rod \* and their iniquities with the lash;

33 But I will not take my love from him, \* nor let my faithfulness prove false.

34 I will not break my covenant, \* nor change what has gone out of my lips.

35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: \* 'I will not lie to David.

36 His line shall endure for ever \* and his throne as the sun before me;

37 It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, \* the abiding witness in the sky."

38 But you have cast off and rejected your anointed;\* you have become enraged at him.

39 You have broken your covenant with your servant, \* defiled his crown, and hurled it to the ground.

40 You have breached all his walls \* and laid his strongholds in ruins.

41 All who pass by despoil him; \* he has become the scorn of his neighbors.

42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes \* and made all his enemies rejoice.

43 You have turned back the edge of his sword \* and have not sustained him in battle.

44 You have put an end to his splendor \* and cast his throne to the ground.

45 You have cut short the days of his youth \* and have covered him with shame.

46 How long will you hide yourself, O Lord?  
will you hide yourself for ever? \*  
how long will your anger burn like fire?

47 Remember, Lord, how short life is, \*  
how frail you have made all flesh.

48 Who can live and not see death? \*  
who can save himself from the power of the grave?

49 Where, Lord, are your loving-kindnesses of old,  
\*  
which you promised David in your faithfulness?

50 Remember, Lord, how your servant is mocked, \*  
how I carry in my bosom the taunts of many  
peoples,

51 The taunts your enemies have hurled, O Lord, \*  
which they hurled at the heels of your anointed.

52 Blessed be the Lord for evermore! \*  
Amen, I say, Amen.

## Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all

that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

## Ephesians 3:1-13

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

## Matthew 8:5-17

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.' And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I

also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.

When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed by demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'

## **Tuesday, May19**

### **Psalm 94**

1 O Lord God of vengeance, \*  
O God of vengeance, show yourself.

2 Rise up, O Judge of the world; \*  
give the arrogant their just deserts.

3 How long shall the wicked, O Lord, \*  
how long shall the wicked triumph?

4 They bluster in their insolence; \*  
all evildoers are full of boasting.

5 They crush your people, O Lord, \*  
and afflict your chosen nation.

6 They murder the widow and the stranger \*  
and put the orphans to death.

7 Yet they say, "The Lord does not see, \*  
the God of Jacob takes no notice."

8 Consider well, you dullards among the people; \*  
when will you fools understand?

9 He that planted the ear, does he not hear? \*  
he that formed the eye, does he not see?

10 He who admonishes the nations, will he not  
punish? \*  
he who teaches all the world, has he no knowledge?

11 The Lord knows our human thoughts; \*  
how like a puff of wind they are.

12 Happy are they whom you instruct, O Lord! \*  
whom you teach out of your law;

13 To give them rest in evil days, \*  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

14 For the Lord will not abandon his people, \*  
nor will he forsake his own.

15 For judgment will again be just, \*  
and all the true of heart will follow it.

16 Who rose up for me against the wicked? \*  
who took my part against the evildoers?

17 If the Lord had not come to my help, \*  
I should soon have dwelt in the land of silence.

18 As often as I said, "My foot has slipped," \*  
your love, O Lord, upheld me.

19 When many cares fill my mind, \*  
your consolations cheer my soul.

20 Can a corrupt tribunal have any part with you, \*  
one which frames evil into law?

21 They conspire against the life of the just \*  
and condemn the innocent to death.

22 But the Lord has become my stronghold, \*  
and my God the rock of my trust.

23 He will turn their wickedness back upon them  
and destroy them in their own malice; \*  
the Lord our God will destroy them.

## 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Matthew 8:18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' Another of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.'

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

**Wednesday, May 20**

**Psalm 119: 121 - 144**

121 I have done what is just and right; \*  
do not deliver me to my oppressors.

122 Be surety for your servant's good; \*  
let not the proud oppress me.

123 My eyes have failed from watching for your  
salvation \*  
and for your righteous promise.

124 Deal with your servant according to your  
loving-kindness \*  
and teach me your statutes.

125 I am your servant; grant me understanding, \*  
that I may know your decrees.

126 It is time for you to act, O Lord, \*  
for they have broken your law.

127 Truly, I love your commandments \*  
more than gold and precious stones.

128 I hold all your commandments to be right for  
me; \*  
all paths of falsehood I abhor.

129 Your decrees are wonderful; \*  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; \*  
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; \*  
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, \*  
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; \*  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, \*  
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant \*  
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, \*  
because people do not keep your law.

137 You are righteous, O Lord, \*  
and upright are your judgments.

138 You have issued your decrees \*  
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.

139 My indignation has consumed me, \*  
because my enemies forget your words.

140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, \*  
and your servant holds it dear.

141 I am small and of little account, \*  
yet I do not forget your commandments.

142 Your justice is an everlasting justice \*  
and your law is the truth.

143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, \*  
yet your commandments are my delight.

144 The righteousness of your decrees is  
everlasting; \*  
grant me understanding, that I may live.

**Isaiah 4:2-6**

On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgement and by a spirit of burning. Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed, over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

## Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;

he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 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. 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. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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.

## Matthew 8:28-34

When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, 'What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?' Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance

from them. The demons begged him, 'If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.' And he said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighbourhood.

## Thursday, May 21

### Psalm 105:23-45

- 23 Israel came into Egypt, \*  
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; \*  
he made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, \*  
and dealt unjustly with his servants.
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, \*  
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
- 27 They worked his signs among them, \*  
and portents in the land of Ham.
- 28 He sent darkness, and it grew dark; \*  
but the Egyptians rebelled against his words.
- 29 He turned their waters into blood \*  
and caused their fish to die.
- 30 Their land was overrun by frogs, \*  
in the very chambers of their kings.
- 31 He spoke, and there came swarms of insects \*  
and gnats within all their borders.
- 32 He gave them hailstones instead of rain, \*  
and flames of fire throughout their land.
- 33 He blasted their vines and their fig trees \*  
and shattered every tree in their country.

34 He spoke, and the locust came, \*  
and young locusts without number,

35 Which ate up all the green plants in their land \*  
and devoured the fruit of their soil.

36 He struck down the firstborn of their land, \*  
the firstfruits of all their strength.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; \*  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their going, \*  
because they were afraid of them.

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering \*  
and a fire to give light in the night season.

40 They asked, and quails appeared, \*  
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, \*  
so the river ran in the dry places.

42 For God remembered his holy word \*  
and Abraham his servant.

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, \*  
his chosen with shouts of joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, \*  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

45 That they might keep his statutes \*  
and observe his laws.  
Hallelujah!

## **Zechariah 4:1-14**

The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. He said to me, 'What do you see?' And I said, 'I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And by it there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' I said to the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?' Then the angel who talked with me answered me, 'Do you not

know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' He said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain; and he shall bring out the top stone amid shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'

Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

'These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.' Then I said to him, 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?' And a second time I said to him, 'What are these two branches of the olive trees, which pour out the oil through the two golden pipes?' He said to me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.'

## **Ephesians 4:17-32**

Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practise every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the

sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

## **Matthew 9:1-8**

And after getting into a boat he crossed the water and came to his own town.

And just then some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he then said to the paralytic—‘Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.’ And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.