

Daily Office Readings, Year 2

(Proper 26)

Monday, November 2

All Souls/All the Faithful Departed

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my
supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins

Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of
God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have
died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;

but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were
punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive
great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy
of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted
them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine
forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed,
brothers and sisters, about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who
have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus
died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God
will bring with him those who have died. For this
we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that
we who are alive, who are left until the coming of
the Lord, will by no means precede those who
have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to
meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with
the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one
another with these words.

John 5:24-27

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word
and believes him who sent me has eternal life,
and does not come under judgement, but has
passed from death to life.

'Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

Tuesday, November 3

Psalm 68

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
Yahweh is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

11 The Lord gave the word; *
great was the company of women who bore the tidings:

12 "Kings with their armies are fleeing away; *
the women at home are dividing the spoils."

13 Though you lingered among the sheepfolds, *
you shall be like a dove whose wings are covered with silver,
whose feathers are like green gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings, *
it was like snow falling in Zalmon.

15 O mighty mountain, O hill of Bashan! *
O rugged mountain, O hill of Bashan!

16 Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain,
at the hill which God chose for his resting place? *
truly, the Lord will dwell there for ever.

17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand,
even thousands of thousands; *
the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai.

18 You have gone up on high and led captivity captive;
you have received gifts even from your enemies, *
that the Lord God might dwell among them.

19 Blessed be the Lord day by day, *
the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.

20 He is our God, the God of our salvation; *
God is the Lord, by whom we escape death.

21 God shall crush the heads of his enemies, *
and the hairy scalp of those who go on still in their wickedness.

22 The Lord has said, "I will bring them back from Bashan; *
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea;

23 That your foot may be dipped in blood, *
the tongues of your dogs in the blood of your
enemies."

24 They see your procession, O God, *
your procession into the sanctuary, my God and my
King.

25 The singers go before, musicians follow after, *
in the midst of maidens playing upon the hand-
drums.

26 Bless God in the congregation; *
bless the Lord, you that are of the fountain of Israel.

27 There is Benjamin, least of the tribes, at the
head;
the princes of Judah in a company; *
and the princes of Zebulon and Naphtali.

28 Send forth your strength, O God; *
establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.

29 Kings shall bring gifts to you, *
for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.

30 Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, *
and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls with its calves.

31 Trample down those who lust after silver; *
scatter the peoples that delight in war.

32 Let tribute be brought out of Egypt; *
let Ethiopia stretch out her hands to God.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his
people!
Blessed be God!

Sirach 43:1-22

The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of
the sky,

as glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens.
The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises
what a marvellous instrument it is, the work of the
Most High.

At noon it parches the land,
and who can withstand its burning heat?
A man tending a furnace works in burning heat,
but three times as hot is the sun scorching the
mountains;
it breathes out fiery vapours,
and its bright rays blind the eyes.
Great is the Lord who made it;
at his orders it hurries on its course.

It is the moon that marks the changing seasons,
governing the times, their everlasting sign.
From the moon comes the sign for festal days,
a light that wanes when it completes its course.
The new moon, as its name suggests, renews itself;
how marvellous it is in this change,
a beacon to the hosts on high,
shining in the vault of the heavens!

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven,
a glittering array in the heights of the Lord.
On the orders of the Holy One they stand in their
appointed places;
they never relax in their watches.
Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it;
it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.
It encircles the sky with its glorious arc;
the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.

By his command he sends the driving snow
and speeds the lightnings of his judgement.
Therefore the storehouses are opened,
and the clouds fly out like birds.
In his majesty he gives the clouds their strength,
and the hailstones are broken in pieces.
The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth;
when he appears, the mountains shake.
At his will the south wind blows;

so do the storm from the north and the whirlwind.
He scatters the snow like birds flying down,
and its descent is like locusts alighting.
The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness,
and the mind is amazed as it falls.
He pours frost over the earth like salt,
and icicles form like pointed thorns.
The cold north wind blows,
and ice freezes on the water;
it settles on every pool of water,
and the water puts it on like a breastplate.
He consumes the mountains and burns up the
wilderness,
and withers the tender grass like fire.
A mist quickly heals all things;
the falling dew gives refreshment from the heat.

Revelation 14:14-15:8

Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand! Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, ‘Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.’ So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.’ So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and he threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse’s bridle, for a distance of about two hundred miles.

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended.

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:
‘Great and amazing are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Lord, who will not fear
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your judgements have been revealed.’

After this I looked, and the temple of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, and out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues, robed in pure bright linen, with golden sashes across their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever; and the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find

none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Wednesday, November 4

Psalm 119:73-96

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; *
give me understanding, that I may learn your
commandments.

74 Those who fear you will be glad when they see
me, *
because I trust in your word.

75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right *
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

76 Let your loving-kindness be my comfort, *
as you have promised to your servant.

77 Let your compassion come to me, that I may
live, *
for your law is my delight.

78 Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they wrong
me with lies; *
but I will meditate on your commandments.

79 Let those who fear you turn to me, *
and also those who know your decrees.

80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes, *
that I may not be put to shame.

81 My soul has longed for your salvation; *
I have put my hope in your word.

82 My eyes have failed from watching for your
promise, *
and I say, "When will you comfort me?"

83 I have become like a leather flask in the smoke,*
but I have not forgotten your statutes.

84 How much longer must I wait? *
when will you give judgment against those who
persecute me?

85 The proud have dug pits for me; *
they do not keep your law.

86 All your commandments are true; *
help me, for they persecute me with lies.

87 They had almost made an end of me on earth, *
but I have not forsaken your commandments.

88 In your loving-kindness, revive me, *
that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

89 O Lord, your word is everlasting; *
it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness remains from one generation
to another; *
you established the earth, and it abides.

91 By your decree these continue to this day, *
for all things are your servants.

92 If my delight had not been in your law, *
I should have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your commandments, *
because by them you give me life.

94 I am yours; oh, that you would save me! *
for I study your commandments.

95 Though the wicked lie in wait for me to destroy
me, *
I will apply my mind to your decrees.

96 I see that all things come to an end, *
but your commandment has no bounds.

Sirach 43:23-33

By his plan he stilled the deep
and planted islands in it.
Those who sail the sea tell of its dangers,
and we marvel at what we hear.

In it are strange and marvellous creatures,
all kinds of living things, and huge sea-monsters.
Because of him each of his messengers succeeds,
and by his word all things hold together.

We could say more but could never say enough;
let the final word be: 'He is the all.'
Where can we find the strength to praise him?
For he is greater than all his works.
Awesome is the Lord and very great,
and marvellous is his power.
Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you can,
for he surpasses even that.
When you exalt him, summon all your strength,
and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him
enough.
Who has seen him and can describe him?
Or who can extol him as he is?
Many things greater than these lie hidden,
for I have seen but few of his works.
For the Lord has made all things,
and to the godly he has given wisdom.

Revelation 16:1-11

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling
the seven angels, 'Go and pour out on the earth the
seven bowls of the wrath of God.'

So the first angel went and poured his bowl on the
earth, and a foul and painful sore came on those
who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped
its image.

The second angel poured his bowl into the sea, and
it became like the blood of a corpse, and every
living thing in the sea died.

The third angel poured his bowl into the rivers and
the springs of water, and they became blood. And I
heard the angel of the waters say,
'You are just, O Holy One, who are and were,
for you have judged these things;
because they shed the blood of saints and prophets,
you have given them blood to drink.
It is what they deserve!'
And I heard the altar respond,

'Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty,
your judgements are true and just!'

The fourth angel poured his bowl on the sun, and it
was allowed to scorch people with fire; they were
scorched by the fierce heat, but they cursed the
name of God, who had authority over these plagues,
and they did not repent and give him glory.

The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the
beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness;
people gnawed their tongues in agony, and cursed
the God of heaven because of their pains and sores,
and they did not repent of their deeds.

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on
the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman
with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years.
She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up
straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and
said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.'
When he laid his hands on her, immediately she
stood up straight and began praising God. But the
leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus
had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd,
'There are six days on which work ought to be
done; come on those days and be cured, and not on
the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and
said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the
sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger,
and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this
woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound
for eighteen long years, be set free from this
bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all
his opponents were put to shame; and the entire
crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that
he was doing.

Psalm 74

1 O God, why have you utterly cast us off? *
why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your
pasture?

2 Remember your congregation that you purchased
long ago, *
the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance,
and Mount Zion where you dwell.

3 Turn your steps toward the endless ruins; *
the enemy has laid waste everything in your
sanctuary.

4 Your adversaries roared in your holy place; *
they set up their banners as tokens of victory.

5 They were like men coming up with axes to a
grove of trees; *
they broke down all your carved work with hatchets
and hammers.

6 They set fire to your holy place; *
they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name
and razed it to the ground.

7 They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them
altogether." *
They burned down all the meeting-places of God in
the land.

8 There are no signs for us to see;
there is no prophet left; *
there is not one among us who knows how long.

9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? *
will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?

10 Why do you draw back your hand? *
why is your right hand hidden in your bosom?

11 Yet God is my King from ancient times, *
victorious in the midst of the earth.

12 You divided the sea by your might *
and shattered the heads of the dragons upon the
waters;

13 You crushed the heads of Leviathan *
and gave him to the people of the desert for food.

14 You split open spring and torrent; *
you dried up ever-flowing rivers.

15 Yours is the day, yours also the night; *
you established the moon and the sun.

16 You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; *
you made both summer and winter.

17 Remember, O Lord, how the enemy scoffed, *
how a foolish people despised your Name.

18 Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild
beasts; *
never forget the lives of your poor.

19 Look upon your covenant; *
the dark places of the earth are haunts of violence.

20 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed; *
let the poor and needy praise your Name.

21 Arise, O God, maintain your cause; *
remember how fools revile you all day long.

22 Forget not the clamor of your adversaries, *
the unending tumult of those who rise up against
you.

Sirach 44:1-15

Let us now sing the praises of famous men,
our ancestors in their generations.
The Lord apportioned to them great glory,
his majesty from the beginning.
There were those who ruled in their kingdoms,
and made a name for themselves by their valour;
those who gave counsel because they were
intelligent;
those who spoke in prophetic oracles;
those who led the people by their counsels
and by their knowledge of the people's lore;
they were wise in their words of instruction;
those who composed musical tunes,
or put verses in writing;
rich men endowed with resources,

living peacefully in their homes—
 all these were honoured in their generations,
 and were the pride of their times.
 Some of them have left behind a name,
 so that others declare their praise.
 But of others there is no memory;
 they have perished as though they had never
 existed;
 they have become as though they had never been
 born,
 they and their children after them.
 But these also were godly men,
 whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;
 their wealth will remain with their descendants,
 and their inheritance with their children's
 children.
 Their descendants stand by the covenants;
 their children also, for their sake.
 Their offspring will continue for ever,
 and their glory will never be blotted out.
 Their bodies are buried in peace,
 but their name lives on generation after
 generation.
 The assembly declares their wisdom,
 and the congregation proclaims their praise.

Revelation 16:12-21

The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river
 Euphrates, and its water was dried up in order to
 prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I
 saw three foul spirits like frogs coming from the
 mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast,
 and from the mouth of the false prophet. These are
 demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to
 the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for
 battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ('See, I
 am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays
 awake and is clothed, not going about naked and
 exposed to shame.') And they assembled them at
 the place that in Hebrew is called Harmagedon.

The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and
 a loud voice came out of the temple, from the
 throne, saying, 'It is done!' And there came flashes
 of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a
 violent earthquake, such as had not occurred since

people were upon the earth, so violent was that
 earthquake. The great city was split into three parts,
 and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered
 great Babylon and gave her the wine-cup of the fury
 of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no
 mountains were to be found; and huge hailstones,
 each weighing about a hundred pounds, dropped
 from heaven on people, until they cursed God for
 the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.

Luke 13:18-30

He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God
 like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a
 mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the
 garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of
 the air made nests in its branches.'

And again he said, 'To what should I compare the
 kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took
 and mixed in with three measures of flour until all
 of it was leavened.'

Jesus went through one town and village after
 another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.
 Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be
 saved?' He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the
 narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter
 and will not be able. When once the owner of the
 house has got up and shut the door, and you begin
 to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying,
 "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you,
 "I do not know where you come from." Then you
 will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and
 you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I do not
 know where you come from; go away from me, all
 you evildoers!" There will be weeping and gnashing
 of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob
 and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you
 yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from
 east and west, from north and south, and will eat in
 the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will
 be first, and some are first who will be last.'