

# Daily Office Readings, Year 1

## (Proper 23)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13**

### Psalm 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

### Psalm 7

1 O Lord my God, I take refuge in you; \*  
save and deliver me from all who pursue me;

2 Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces \*  
and snatch me away with none to deliver me.

3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things: \*  
if there is any wickedness in my hands,

4 If I have repaid my friend with evil, \*  
or plundered him who without cause is my enemy;

5 Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, \*  
trample my life into the ground,  
and lay my honor in the dust.

6 Stand up, O Lord, in your wrath; \*  
rise up against the fury of my enemies.

7 Awake, O my God, decree justice; \*  
let the assembly of the peoples gather round you.

8 Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; \*  
O Lord, judge the nations.

9 Give judgment for me according to my righteousness, O Lord, \*  
and according to my innocence, O Most High.

10 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,  
but establish the righteous; \*  
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.

11 God is my shield and defense; \*  
he is the savior of the true in heart.

12 God is a righteous judge; \*  
God sits in judgment every day.

13 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword; \*  
he will bend his bow and make it ready.

14 He has prepared his weapons of death; \*  
he makes his arrows shafts of fire.

15 Look at those who are in labor with wickedness, \*  
who conceive evil, and give birth to a lie.

16 They dig a pit and make it deep \*  
and fall into the hole that they have made.

17 Their malice turns back upon their own head; \*  
their violence falls on their own scalp.

18 I will bear witness that the Lord is righteous; \*  
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

## Jeremiah 36:11-26

When Micaiah son of Gemariah son of Shaphan heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, he went down to the king's house, into the secretary's chamber; and all the officials were sitting there: Elishama the secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the officials. And Micaiah told them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the scroll in the hearing of the people. Then all the officials sent Jehudi son of Nethaniah son of Shelemiah son of Cushi to say to Baruch, 'Bring the scroll that you read in the hearing of the people, and come.' So Baruch son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them. And they said to him, 'Sit down and read it to us.' So Baruch read it to them. When they heard all the words, they turned to one another in alarm, and said to Baruch, 'We certainly must report all these words to the king.' Then they questioned Baruch, 'Tell us now, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?' Baruch answered them, 'He dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink on the scroll.' Then the officials said to Baruch, 'Go and hide, you and Jeremiah, and let no one know where you are.'

Leaving the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, they went to the court of the king; and they reported all the words to the king. Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier. Yet neither the king, nor any of his servants who heard all these words, was alarmed, nor did they tear their garments. Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. And the king commanded

Jerahmeel the king's son and Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest the secretary Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah. But the Lord hid them.

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## Matthew 10:5-15

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for

your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

### Psalm 10

1 Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, \*  
and hide yourself in time of trouble?

2 The wicked arrogantly persecute the poor, \*  
but they are trapped in the schemes they have  
devised.

3 The wicked boast of their heart's desire; \*  
the covetous curse and revile the Lord.

4 The wicked are so proud that they care not for  
God; \*  
their only thought is, "God does not matter."

5 Their ways are devious at all times;  
your judgments are far above out of their sight; \*  
they defy all their enemies.

6 They say in their heart, "I shall not be shaken; \*  
no harm shall happen to me ever."

7 Their mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and  
oppression; \*  
under their tongue are mischief and wrong.

8 They lurk in ambush in public squares  
and in secret places they murder the innocent; \*  
they spy out the helpless.

9 They lie in wait, like a lion in a covert;  
they lie in wait to seize upon the lowly; \*  
they seize the lowly and drag them away in their  
net.

10 The innocent are broken and humbled before  
them; \*  
the helpless fall before their power.

11 They say in their heart, "God has forgotten; \*  
he hides his face; he will never notice."

12 Rise up, O Lord; lift up your hand, O God; \*  
do not forget the afflicted.

13 Why should the wicked revile God? \*  
why should they say in their heart, "You do not  
care"?

14 Surely, you behold trouble and misery; \*  
you see it and take it into your own hand.

15 The helpless commit themselves to you, \*  
for you are the helper of orphans.

16 Break the power of the wicked and evil; \*  
search out their wickedness until you find none.

17 The Lord is King for ever and ever; \*  
the ungodly shall perish from his land.

18 The Lord will hear the desire of the humble; \*  
you will strengthen their heart and your ears shall  
hear;

19 To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, \*  
so that mere mortals may strike terror no more.

### Psalm 11

1 In the Lord have I taken refuge; \*  
how then can you say to me,  
"Fly away like a bird to the hilltop;

2 For see how the wicked bend the bow  
and fit their arrows to the string, \*  
to shoot from ambush at the true of heart.

3 When the foundations are being destroyed, \*  
what can the righteous do?"

4 The Lord is in his holy temple; \*  
the Lord's throne is in heaven.

5 His eyes behold the inhabited world; \*  
his piercing eye weighs our worth.

6 The Lord weighs the righteous as well as the  
wicked, \*  
but those who delight in violence he abhors.

7 Upon the wicked he shall rain coals of fire and  
burning sulphur; \*  
a scorching wind shall be their lot.

8 For the Lord is righteous;  
he delights in righteous deeds; \*  
and the just shall see his face.

## Jeremiah 36:27-37:2

Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned. And concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah you shall say: Thus says the Lord, You have dared to burn this scroll, saying, Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it human beings and animals? Therefore thus says the Lord concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah: He shall have no one to sit upon the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity; I will bring on them, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the people of Judah, all the disasters with which I have threatened them—but they would not listen.

Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the secretary Baruch son of Neriah, who wrote on it at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah had burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them.

Zedekiah son of Josiah, whom King  
Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made king in the land

of Judah, succeeded Coniah son of Jehoiakim. But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the Lord that he spoke through the prophet Jeremiah.

## 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their building up and encouragement and consolation. Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church. Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I speak to you in some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? It is the same way with lifeless instruments that produce sound, such as the flute or the harp. If they do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is being played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves; if in a tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different kinds of sounds in the world, and nothing is without sound. If then I do not know the meaning of a sound, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church.

## Matthew 10:16-23

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry

about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

### Psalm 12

1 Help me, Lord, for there is no godly one left; \*  
the faithful have vanished from among us.

2 Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; \*  
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.

3 Oh, that the Lord would cut off all smooth  
tongues, \*  
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!

4 Those who say, "With our tongue will we  
prevail; \*  
our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"

5 "Because the needy are oppressed,  
and the poor cry out in misery, "  
I will rise up," says the Lord,  
"and give them the help they long for."

6 The words of the Lord are pure words, \*  
like silver refined from ore  
and purified seven times in the fire.

7 O Lord, watch over us \*  
and save us from this generation for ever.

8 The wicked prowl on every side, \*  
and that which is worthless is highly prized by  
everyone.

### Psalm 13

1 How long, O Lord?  
will you forget me for ever? \*  
how long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day? \*  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me  
richly; \*  
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

### Psalm 14

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?

5 See how they tremble with fear, \*  
because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the  
afflicted, \*  
but the Lord is their refuge.

7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

## Jeremiah 37:3-12

King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to the prophet Jeremiah saying, 'Please pray for us to the Lord our God.' Now Jeremiah was still going in and out among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison. Meanwhile, the army of Pharaoh had come out of Egypt; and when the Chaldeans who were besieging Jerusalem heard news of them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.

Then the word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah: Thus says the Lord, God of Israel: This is what the two of you shall say to the king of Judah, who sent you to me to inquire of me: Pharaoh's army, which set out to help you, is going to return to its own land, to Egypt. And the Chaldeans shall return and fight against this city; they shall take it and burn it with fire. Thus says the Lord: Do not deceive yourselves, saying, 'The Chaldeans will surely go away from us', for they will not go away. Even if you defeated the whole army of Chaldeans who are fighting against you, and there remained of them only wounded men in their tents, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.

Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh's army, Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his share of property among the people there.

## 1 Corinthians 14:13-25

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unproductive. What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also. Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say the 'Amen' to your thanksgiving, since the outsider

does not know what you are saying? For you may give thanks well enough, but the other person is not built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults. In the law it is written,  
'By people of strange tongues  
and by the lips of foreigners  
I will speak to this people;  
yet even then they will not listen to me,'  
says the Lord. Tongues, then, are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, an unbeliever or outsider who enters is reproved by all and called to account by all. After the secrets of the unbeliever's heart are disclosed, that person will bow down before God and worship him, declaring, 'God is really among you.'

## Matthew 10:24-33

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

### Psalm 18: 21-50

21 The Lord rewarded me because of my righteous dealing; \*  
because my hands were clean he rewarded me;

22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord \*  
and have not offended against my God;

23 For all his judgments are before my eyes, \*  
and his decrees I have not put away from me;

24 For I have been blameless with him \*  
and have kept myself from iniquity;

25 Therefore the Lord rewarded me according to my righteous dealing, \*  
because of the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

26 With the faithful you show yourself faithful, O God; \*  
with the forthright you show yourself forthright.

27 With the pure you show yourself pure, \*  
but with the crooked you are wily.

28 You will save a lowly people, \*  
but you will humble the haughty eyes.

29 You, O Lord, are my lamp; \*  
my God, you make my darkness bright.

30 With you I will break down an enclosure; \*  
with the help of my God I will scale any wall.

31 As for God, his ways are perfect;  
the words of the Lord are tried in the fire; \*  
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

32 For who is God, but the Lord? \*  
who is the Rock, except our God?

33 It is God who girds me about with strength \*  
and makes my way secure.

34 He makes me sure-footed like a deer \*  
and lets me stand firm on the heights.

35 He trains my hands for battle \*  
and my arms for bending even a bow of bronze.

36 You have given me your shield of victory; \*  
your right hand also sustains me;  
your loving care makes me great.

37 You lengthen my stride beneath me, \*  
and my ankles do not give way.

38 I pursue my enemies and overtake them; \*  
I will not turn back till I have destroyed them.

39 I strike them down, and they cannot rise; \*  
they fall defeated at my feet.

40 You have girded me with strength for the battle; \*  
you have cast down my adversaries beneath me;  
you have put my enemies to flight.

41 I destroy those who hate me;  
they cry out, but there is none to help them; \*  
they cry to the Lord, but he does not answer.

42 I beat them small like dust before the wind; \*  
I trample them like mud in the streets.

43 You deliver me from the strife of the peoples; \*  
you put me at the head of the nations.

44 A people I have not known shall serve me;  
no sooner shall they hear than they shall obey me; \*  
strangers will cringe before me.

45 The foreign peoples will lose heart; \*  
they shall come trembling out of their strongholds.

46 The Lord lives! Blessed is my Rock! \*  
Exalted is the God of my salvation!

47 He is the God who gave me victory \*  
and cast down the peoples beneath me.

48 You rescued me from the fury of my enemies;  
you exalted me above those who rose against me; \*  
you saved me from my deadly foe.

49 Therefore will I extol you among the nations, O  
Lord, \*  
and sing praises to your Name.

50 He multiplies the victories of his king; \*  
he shows loving-kindness to his anointed,  
to David and his descendants for ever.

## Jeremiah 38:1-13

Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people, Thus says the Lord, Those who stay in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but those who go out to the Chaldeans shall live; they shall have their lives as a prize of war, and live. Thus says the Lord, This city shall surely be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon and be taken. Then the officials said to the king, 'This man ought to be put to death, because he is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.' King Zedekiah said, 'Here he is; he is in your hands; for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. Now there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. The king happened to be sitting at the Benjamin Gate, So Ebed-melech left the king's house and spoke to the king, 'My lord king, these men have acted wickedly in all they did to the prophet Jeremiah by throwing him into the cistern to die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.' Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take three men with you from here, and pull the prophet Jeremiah up from the cistern

before he dies.' So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe of the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes. Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, 'Just put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes.' Jeremiah did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up by the ropes and pulled him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

## 1 Corinthians 14:26-33,37-40

What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn; and let one interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let them be silent in church and speak to themselves and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to someone else sitting nearby, let the first person be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged. And the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets, for God is a God not of disorder but of peace.

(As in all the churches of the saints,

Anyone who claims to be a prophet, or to have spiritual powers, must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. Anyone who does not recognize this is not to be recognized. So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

## Matthew 10:34-42

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not



worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’