

Daily Office Readings, Year 2

(Proper 25)

Monday, October 26

Psalm 44

1 We have heard with our ears, O God,
our forefathers have told us, *
the deeds you did in their days,
in the days of old.

2 How with your hand you drove the peoples out
and planted our forefathers in the land; *
how you destroyed nations and made your people
flourish.

3 For they did not take the land by their sword,
nor did their arm win the victory for them; *
but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your
countenance,
because you favored them.

4 You are my King and my God; *
you command victories for Jacob.

5 Through you we pushed back our adversaries; *
through your Name we trampled on those who rose
up against us.

6 For I do not rely on my bow, *
and my sword does not give me the victory.

7 Surely, you gave us victory over our adversaries *
and put those who hate us to shame.

8 Every day we gloried in God, *
and we will praise your Name for ever.

9 Nevertheless, you have rejected and humbled us *
and do not go forth with our armies.

10 You have made us fall back before our
adversary, *
and our enemies have plundered us.

11 You have made us like sheep to be eaten *
and have scattered us among the nations.

12 You are selling your people for a trifle *
and are making no profit on the sale of them.

13 You have made us the scorn of our neighbors, *
a mockery and derision to those around us.

14 You have made us a byword among the nations,*
a laughing-stock among the peoples.

15 My humiliation is daily before me, *
and shame has covered my face;

16 Because of the taunts of the mockers and
blasphemers, *
because of the enemy and avenger.

17 All this has come upon us; *
yet we have not forgotten you,
nor have we betrayed your covenant.

18 Our heart never turned back, *
nor did our footsteps stray from your path;

19 Though you thrust us down into a place of
misery, *
and covered us over with deep darkness.

20 If we have forgotten the Name of our God, *
or stretched out our hands to some strange god,

21 Will not God find it out? *
for he knows the secrets of the heart.

22 Indeed, for your sake we are killed all the day
long; *
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

23 Awake, O Lord! why are you sleeping? *
Arise! do not reject us for ever.

24 Why have you hidden your face *
and forgotten our affliction and oppression?

25 We sink down into the dust; *
our body cleaves to the ground.

26 Rise up, and help us, *
and save us, for the sake of your steadfast love.

Sirach 19:4-17

One who trusts others too quickly has a shallow mind,
and one who sins does wrong to himself.
One who rejoices in wickedness will be condemned,
but one who hates gossip has less evil.
Never repeat a conversation,
and you will lose nothing at all.
With friend or foe do not report it,
and unless it would be a sin for you, do not reveal it;
for someone may have heard you and watched you,
and in time will hate you.
Have you heard something? Let it die with you.
Be brave, it will not make you burst!
Having heard something, the fool suffers birth-pangs
like a woman in labour with a child.
Like an arrow stuck in a person's thigh,
so is gossip inside a fool.

Question a friend; perhaps he did not do it;
or if he did, so that he may not do it again.
Question a neighbour; perhaps he did not say it;
or if he said it, so that he may not repeat it.
Question a friend, for often it is slander;
so do not believe everything you hear.
A person may make a slip without intending it.
Who has not sinned with his tongue?
Question your neighbour before you threaten him;
and let the law of the Most High take its course.

Revelation 11:1-14

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, 'Come and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, wearing sackcloth.'
These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes; anyone who

wants to harm them must be killed in this manner. They have authority to shut the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that is prophetically called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days members of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb; and the inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to the inhabitants of the earth.

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here!' And they went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watched them. At that moment there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe has passed. The third woe is coming very soon.

Luke 11:14-26

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, 'He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.' Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then

the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, but not finding any, it says, "I will return to my house from which I came." When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.'

Tuesday, October 27

Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered
together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

Psalm 48

1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; *
in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the
hill of Zion, *
the very center of the world and the city of the great
King.

3 God is in her citadels; *
he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled *
and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; *
they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; *
they writhed like a woman in childbirth,
like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters
them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen,
in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our
God; *
God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-
kindness, O God, *
in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to
the world's end; *
your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad
and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion;
walk round about her; *
count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks;
examine her strongholds; *
that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; *
he shall be our guide for evermore.

Sirach 24:1-12

Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her
mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her
glory:
‘I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held
sway.
Among all these I sought a resting-place;
in whose territory should I abide?

‘Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.”
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
I took root in an honoured people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

Revelation 11:14-19

The second woe has passed. The third woe is
coming very soon.

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there
were loud voices in heaven, saying,

‘The kingdom of the world has become the
kingdom of our Lord
and of his Messiah,
and he will reign for ever and ever.’

Then the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones
before God fell on their faces and worshipped God,
singing,
‘We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty,
who are and who were,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.
The nations raged,
but your wrath has come,
and the time for judging the dead,
for rewarding your servants, the prophets
and saints and all who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying those who destroy the earth.’

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the
ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and
there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of
thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Luke 11:27-36

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd
raised her voice and said to him, ‘Blessed is the
womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed
you!’ But he said, ‘Blessed rather are those who
hear the word of God and obey it!’

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say,
‘This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a
sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign
of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the
people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this
generation. The queen of the South will rise at the
judgement with the people of this generation and
condemn them, because she came from the ends of
the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and
see, something greater than Solomon is here! The
people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement
with this generation and condemn it, because they
repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see,
something greater than Jonah is here!’

‘No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.’

Wednesday, October 28

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles

Psalm 116

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul. *
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low." *
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 117

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations; *
laud him, all you peoples.

2 For his loving-kindness toward us is great, *
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.
Hallelujah!

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.

John 14:15-31

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has

commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Thursday, October 31

Psalm 59

1 Rescue me from my enemies, O God; *
protect me from those who rise up against me.

2 Rescue me from evildoers *
and save me from those who thirst for my blood.

3 See how they lie in wait for my life,
how the mighty gather together against me; *
not for any offense or fault of mine, O Lord.

4 Not because of any guilt of mine *
they run and prepare themselves for battle.

5 Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; *
for you, Lord God of hosts, are Israel's God.

6 Awake, and punish all the ungodly; *
show no mercy to those who are faithless and evil.

7 They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

8 Behold, they boast with their mouths,
and taunts are on their lips; *
"For who," they say, "will hear us?"

9 But you, O Lord, you laugh at them; *
you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.

10 My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold.

11 My merciful God comes to meet me; *
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

12 Slay them, O God, lest my people forget; *
send them reeling by your might and put them
down, O Lord our shield.

13 For the sins of their mouths, for the words of

their lips,
for the cursing and lies that they utter, *
let them be caught in their pride.

14 Make an end of them in your wrath; *
make an end of them, and they shall be no more.

15 Let everyone know that God rules in Jacob, *
and to the ends of the earth.

16 They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

17 They forage for food, *
and if they are not filled, they howl.

18 For my part, I will sing of your strength; *
I will celebrate your love in the morning;

19 For you have become my stronghold, *
a refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my Strength, will I sing; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful
God.

Psalm 60

1 O God, you have cast us off and broken us; *
you have been angry;
oh, take us back to you again.

2 You have shaken the earth and split it open; *
repair the cracks in it, for it totters.

3 You have made your people know hardship; *
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.

4 You have set up a banner for those who fear you, *
to be a refuge from the power of the bow.

5 Save us by your right hand and answer us, *
that those who are dear to you may be delivered.

6 God spoke from his holy place and said: *
"I will exult and parcel out Shechem;
I will divide the valley of Succoth.

7 Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; *
Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my scepter.

8 Moab is my wash-basin,
on Edom I throw down my sandal to claim it, *
and over Philistia will I shout in triumph."

9 Who will lead me into the strong city? *
who will bring me into Edom?

10 Have you not cast us off, O God? *
you no longer go out, O God, with our armies.

11 Grant us your help against the enemy, *
for vain is the help of man.

12 With God we will do valiant deeds, *
and he shall tread our enemies under foot.

Sirach 31:12-18,31:25-32:2

Are you seated at the table of the great?

Do not be greedy at it,
and do not say, 'How much food there is here!'
Remember that a greedy eye is a bad thing.
What has been created more greedy than the eye?
Therefore it sheds tears for any reason.

Do not reach out your hand for everything you see,
and do not crowd your neighbour at the dish.

Judge your neighbour's feelings by your own,
and in every matter be thoughtful.

Eat what is set before you like a well-bred person,
and do not chew greedily, or you will give
offence.

Be the first to stop, as befits good manners,
and do not be insatiable, or you will give offence.
If you are seated among many others,
do not help yourself before they do.

Do not try to prove your strength by wine-drinking,
for wine has destroyed many.

As the furnace tests the work of the smith,
so wine tests hearts when the insolent quarrel.

Wine is very life to human beings
if taken in moderation.

What is life to one who is without wine?

It has been created to make people happy.

Wine drunk at the proper time and in moderation
is rejoicing of heart and gladness of soul.

Wine drunk to excess leads to bitterness of spirit,
to quarrels and stumbling.

Drunkenness increases the anger of a fool to his
own hurt,

reducing his strength and adding wounds.
Do not reprove your neighbour at a banquet of
wine,
and do not despise him in his merrymaking;
speak no word of reproach to him,
and do not distress him by making demands of
him.

If they make you master of the feast, do not exalt
yourself;
be among them as one of their number.
Take care of them first and then sit down;
when you have fulfilled all your duties, take your
place,
so that you may be merry along with them
and receive a garland for your excellent
leadership.

Revelation 12:7-17

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his
angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and
his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and
there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient
serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the
deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down
to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with
him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,
‘Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown
down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.
But they have conquered him by the blood of the
Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of
death.
Rejoice then, you heavens

and those who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you
with great wrath,
because he knows that his time is short!’

So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown
down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had
given birth to the male child. But the woman was
given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she
could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her
place where she is nourished for a time, and times,
and half a time. Then from his mouth the serpent
poured water like a river after the woman, to sweep
her away with the flood. But the earth came to the
help of the woman; it opened its mouth and
swallowed the river that the dragon had poured
from his mouth. Then the dragon was angry with
the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of
her children, those who keep the commandments of
God and hold the testimony of Jesus.

Luke 11:53-12:12

When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees
began to be very hostile towards him and to cross-
examine him about many things, lying in wait for
him, to catch him in something he might say.

Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered in thousands,
so that they trampled on one another, he began to
speak first to his disciples, ‘Beware of the yeast of
the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. Nothing is
covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing
secret that will not become known. Therefore
whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in
the light, and what you have whispered behind
closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

‘I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the
body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will
warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has
killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you,
fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two
pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s
sight. But even the hairs of your head are all
counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value
than many sparrows.

‘And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.’