

News and Prayer Update for 7th March

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Worship at Home Booklet: Please note that a new edition of the Worship at Home Booklet was produced at the beginning of February and it is available as a pdf for screening or printing off (see link on mailchimp e-mail) or as a hard copy which can be sent out to people if they prefer (please let Patricia or Trish know if you need a copy delivering).

Sunday morning 10.30 – Morning Worship This is live online via Zoom. Please join from 10.15 onwards and we will have time for a chat afterwards for those who wish to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82664754818?pwd=dIBJMzJydGhWZVNuZ3Awb3NtUGFMQT09>

If you require the ID and Passcode please contact Revd Patricia.
(this service is in addition to the weekly pre-recorded online service)

Link for this week's recorded service is: <https://youtu.be/m7Ymd5sL5X0>

HYMN: Lift High the Cross (George W Kitchin 1827-1912 and Michael R Newbolt 1874-1956)

Lift high the Cross

the love of Christ proclaim

till all the world adore his sacred name!

Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,
o'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.

Lift high the Cross.....

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine:

Lift high the Cross....

From north and south, from east and west they raise
the growing harmony their song of praise:

Lift high the Cross....

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves from fear of death and hell:

Lift high the Cross....

For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone,
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

Lift high the Cross....

So let the world proclaim with one accord
the praises of our ever-living Lord.

Lift high the Cross....

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Collect for Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: Psalm 19 (or 19: 7-end)

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God ♦
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day pours out its song to another ♦
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- 3 They have neither speech nor language ♦
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands ♦
and their words to the ends of the world.
- 5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, ♦
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoices as a
champion to run his course.
- 6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again, ♦
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; ♦
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; ♦
the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; ♦
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, ♦
sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
- 11 By them also is your servant taught ♦
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often they offend? ♦
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me; ♦
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your
sight, ♦

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17

¹ Then God spoke all these words:

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² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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Gospel Reading: John 2: 13 – 22

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?'

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'

²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?'

²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS – Revd Patricia

I wonder what is the most shocking thing you have ever witnessed? Maybe something comes readily to mind or maybe it is difficult to identify one thing in particular because so often we are immersed in the shocking through media coverage of world events. The pandemic has produced some shocking statistics, numbers which we know represent real lives, real livelihoods and great sadness and distress for individuals and families.

Because of this we are urged to stick to the rules – at the moment the main one being to stay at home, which is why we are worshipping together via Zoom this morning.

The 10 commandments, the covenant between God and his people established thousands of years ago form the basis of the wider law set out in the Pentateuch and what devout Jews aspired to live by. They also form the basis of our judicial system and what as a society has formed our view of what is morally right over many centuries.

Unfortunately, over the years these rules, regulations and rituals had been further developed by Jewish elders and leaders. Temple worship had become a very elaborate affair and there were positions and practises which were seen as important to be upheld. God's people had moved away from God's intentions and worked out their own ways of doing things far from truly following God. It wasn't so much that it was wrong to buy and sell within the temple courts. Rather, Judaism had lost its way – its focus had moved from God's original intention for the Jewish people and the purpose of temple worship.

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“Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!”. The Jewish leaders would have been shocked by what happened that day because they realised that it had been predicted that the Messiah would do this when he came. So they wanted a sign to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.

Jesus is a stumbling block to Jews because they believe that the Messiah could not die a criminal’s death because of the verse “cursed is he who hangs on a tree” (Deut 21 v 23); they also wanted to see signs of strength and marvellous deeds – such as stopping the river Jordan flowing so that people could cross on dry ground – they saw the opposite in Jesus who was meek, who took a lowly position and served others. For them this could not be the Messiah.

The Temple stood on the temple mount and it would have been a magnificent sight as people travelled towards the holy city, not only drawing the eye in but drawing people in to enter it. There was a court for Gentiles within the temple precincts, all were supposed to be welcome to come into God’s house, but Gentiles were not allowed, on pain of death, to go beyond that area and further into the temple – a ruling put in place by leaders who wanted to reserve this beautiful building for their own people; leaders who saw outsiders as unwelcome, impure simply because they were not God’s chosen nation, so unable to come close to God. These leaders were doing the very opposite of what God had intended – they were putting barriers in the way of people coming to God (even for many of their own people too) rather than the Temple being a house of prayer for all nations and pointing the way for Gentiles to come into that special relationship. The ways in which the Jewish people exercised their religion had become merely ceremonial, they were following tradition but it wasn’t reaching down into the depths of their being, they had lost their way and were not following God’s will.

In his act of cleansing the Temple Jesus was showing that because he had come the sacrifices (and so the selling of cattle, sheep and doves) would no longer be necessary. He is the Lamb of God the sacrifice made once for all upon the cross for the forgiveness of sins and to bring us close to the Father. There was to be no more need for these acts of religious obligation and indeed by AD70 temple worship ended. The demonstration of God’s love culminated in the offering of his Son in Gods new covenant with mankind which built on the original covenant recorded in Exodus. Jesus broke down the barriers once and for all.

The result of this is that we can worship God anywhere in the world, anywhere in the world we can know God’s presence with us. The Jews loved their temple – it was indeed a magnificent building but because Jesus died and rose again, he can be present everywhere making the whole world a temple. There is a wonderful truth here – that truth is that we can approach God and enter his presence at anytime and anywhere – even via Zoom. Wherever we find ourselves the presence of Jesus Christ our risen saviour is with us because Jesus is the true temple.

However, God still calls us to obey his commandments – the summary of the law – love God and your neighbour. But into in a legalistic way but part of loving God is to answer his call to witness to him in and through our daily lives.

Jesus was a great storyteller – if you have been reading the daily reflections from #LiveLent you will have picked up on this recently. We are called to express his love to those around us through our daily lives, through living the gospel; demonstrating

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God's love in our actions just as Jesus did and telling our own stories of God's love as we experience it.

Despite the miracles he performed, the Jewish leaders wanted authentication that Jesus was the Messiah – for them that would have been a sign. People still want authentication today.

Hannah Steele in her book "Living His Story" which forms that basis of #LiveLent, writes "Our story becomes more authentic to people when they see that it really does impact the way we live our lives. It is often through our daily lives that we demonstrate the topsy-turvy way of the kingdom of God. In a culture where people are more interested in whether things work than whether things are true, our lived experience becomes a potent advocate in our everyday witness."

And yes, it is possible, even during lockdown with a stay-at-home order to obey Christ's call to live our lives in witness to God's love for the world.

Loving Lord, please fill us with your love to such an extent that it overflows from each of us and touches other people, drawing them to you. Amen.

HYMN: God of Grace and God of Glory

(Harry Emerson Fosdick 1878 – 1969)

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown the ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us,
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to love and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail the world or thee!

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#LIVELENT prayers and actions – beginning 7th March

Week 3 of Lent (Communicating like Jesus) – Action:

Christians are called to be witnesses to Christ in their lives and speech. Theologian Stefan Paas says “[Witness] is nothing more than the fostering of natural human relationships, while being unembarrassed about the Christian faith”. Good communication is key to witness. We will learn this week from Jesus the master communicator.

This week, pay attention to how you communicate with people. What difference does it make to try to apply these communication lessons from Jesus?

Write down what you notice in a notebook or journal.

Monday of Week 3:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you spent your time with all kinds of people.

Please help us to relate well to people who are different from us, and to learn from them.

Amen

Tuesday of Week 3:

Creator God, thank you that you have made us all different. Help me to appreciate the uniqueness of every person we meet and respond to them accordingly.

Amen

Wednesday of Week 3:

Lord, I’m sorry that sometimes I am in too much of a hurry to stop and pay attention to a person you bring before me.

Please help me to allow myself to be interrupted by others and by you.

Amen

Thursday of Week 3:

Thank you Jesus that you are the good shepherd. Help me to know your gentle guidance in my life, and to draw others to be part of the one sheepfold.

Amen

Friday of Week 3:

Jesus, thank you that you made yourself vulnerable, in your birth, in your death, and in your conversations with others. Please help us to do likewise.

Amen

Weekend of Week 3:

Lord, thank you that you asked good questions, like “What do you want me to do for you?” Help me to ask questions too, and to listen attentively to what is said in return.

Amen

Prayer for March: (*St Richard of Chichester: 1197 – 1253*)

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,

For all the benefits you have won for us,

For all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,

May we know you more clearly,

Love you more dearly,

And follow you more nearly,

For ever and ever. Amen.

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NOTICES

❖ **Services – each of the PCCs in our United Benefice have decided to suspend worship services and private prayer in our Churches until mid-March due to the current situation with the pandemic.**

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.

Services for you to join:

- **Sunday morning 10.30 – Morning Worship** This is live online via Zoom Please join from 10.15 onwards and we will have time for a chat afterwards for those who wish to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82664754818?pwd=dIBJMzJydGhWZVNuZ3Awb3NtUGFMQT09>

If you require the ID and Passcode please contact Revd Patricia.
(this service is in addition to the weekly pre-recorded online service).

- **Wednesday Morning 09.00 – Celtic Morning Prayer** This is live online via Zoom with Revd Trish Cope.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86430788721?pwd=dGVuMXpxWDkzTU5FbENraIB2Q09JQT09>

If you require the ID and Password for this meeting please contact Revd Trish: Tel: 07703 470101; Email: trishcope2012@btinternet.com

The reading and psalm for this meeting are included at the end of this Update. This service uses a separate order of service. If anyone would like a hard copy of this service booklet please email Trish and she will get one to you as soon as possible.

- **Thursday Evening 19.00 – Telephone Service for Evening Worship**
Please contact Chris Stanisstreet for details of how to join this service (you will need the telephone number, conference room number and pin number).
Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; e-mail: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk
You can dial in any time between 6.45pm and 7.00pm.
The service will begin at 7.00pm and uses the new Worship at Home booklet. Please say the words in bold and try to ensure that there is no background noise.

- **Suggestions:**

If you have any other ideas please let us know - contact Revd Philip by phone 01565 830595 or email. robinsonpj50@gmail.com

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 10th March:** We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting on Wednesday mornings from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154002422?pwd=aW1HM2VDRGlycmo0SGZTVHHowdUNUQT09>

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If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.

❖ **Lent Course: God's Story Our Story**

Tuesday Evenings from 19.00. Next session on Tuesday 9th March.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81871970480?pwd=SEJ3R2FZL0RaTW5eUV0MWR2OE92QT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.

Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

Our Lent Course this year is based on two publications. The booklet:

LiveLent: God's Story Our Story

which invites each of us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it through our everyday lives as part of our Christian witness.

All through Lent and up to Easter Day there is a short Bible reading, a reflection and a prayer.

You can also access it online or buy your own copy. Let us know if you would like a copy and we will arrange to let you have one.

The second is the book that #LiveLent: God's Story Our Story is based on and which is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for this year:

Living His Story – Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways by Hannah Steele

This book is particularly appropriate as it was written during the pandemic and demonstrates ways in which we can all convey God's love to others.

It isn't essential to read this book to be part of the course, but it is certainly worth it. *(Copies are available from various booksellers but the best price we have seen is £7.99 from the Publishers SPCK.)*

Sessions will start at 19.00 and last up to an hour and a half – part of the time will be spent in smaller discussion groups.

There will be opportunities to discuss what we have read over the week before, there will be review of the chapter from Hannah Steele's book and questions that we will use as points for discussion.

*If there is demand for a **daytime course**, we will provide one – just let a member of the Ministry Team know – Philip, Trish, Patricia, Chris or Stewart.*

❖ **Join the Prayer Chain:**

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

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❖ **Offering and Fund Raising** – Please continue to give if you can

❖ **Homemade Jams For Sale:**

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size - please order by telephoning the Vicarage we will deliver them to you as we go about our duties.

St Mary's are offering: Freshly made Chunky Seville Orange Marmalade £2.50.
Also available – Finely Shredded Marmalade, Strawberry, Raspberry, Damson and Gooseberry Jams

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Strawberry +Gooseberry, Greengage, Gooseberry and Raspberry jams.

❖ **Morning and Night Prayer**

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Mon 8th March – Psalm 5; Jeremiah 11: 1-17; John 7: 37-52

Tues 9th March – Psalm 9; Jeremiah: 11: 18-12: 6; John 7: 53 – 8: 11

Weds 10th March – Psalm 38; Jeremiah 13: 1-11; John 8: 12-30

Thurs 11th March – Psalm 56; Jeremiah Chapter 14; John 8: 31-47

Fri 12th March – Psalm 22; Jeremiah 15: 10-end; John 8: 48 - end

Sat 13th March – Psalm 31; Jeremiah 16: 10 – 17: 4; John 9: 1-17

Readings for Night Prayer

Short Reading during Lent:

Isiah 58: 6-7

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Psalm during Lent: Psalm 139 1-18

¹ O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

² You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦
and are acquainted with all my ways.

³ For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

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- 4 You encompass me behind and before ♦
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? ♦
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ♦
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning ♦
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ♦
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; ♦
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you, ♦
when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned ♦
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, ♦
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

Collect during Lent:

Almighty God,
may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent, enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;
that by following in the Way,
we may come to share in the glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Blessing during Lent:

May God bless us,
That in us may be found love and humility,
Obedience and thanksgiving,
Discipline, gentleness and peace.
Amen

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Psalm and Reading for Celtic Morning Prayer, 10th March:

Psalm 38:

- 1 Rebuke me not, O Lord, in your anger, ♦
neither chasten me in your heavy displeasure.
- 2 For your arrows have stuck fast in me ♦
and your hand presses hard upon me.
- 3 There is no health in my flesh because of your indignation; ♦
there is no peace in my bones because of my sin.
- 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; ♦
their weight is a burden too heavy to bear.
- 5 My wounds stink and fester ♦
because of my foolishness.
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and brought very low; ♦
I go about mourning all the day long.
- 7 My loins are filled with searing pain; ♦
there is no health in my flesh.
- 8 I am feeble and utterly crushed; ♦
I roar aloud because of the disquiet of my heart.
- 9 O Lord, you know all my desires ♦
and my sighing is not hidden from you.
- 10 My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me; ♦
the light of my eyes is gone from me.
- 11 My friends and companions stand apart from my affliction; ♦
my neighbours stand afar off.
- 12 Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; ♦
and those who would harm me whisper evil and mutter slander all the day long.
- 13 But I am like one who is deaf and hears not, ♦
like one that is dumb, who does not open his mouth.
- 14 I have become like one who does not hear ♦
and from whose mouth comes no retort.
- 15 For in you, Lord, have I put my trust; ♦
you will answer me, O Lord my God.
- 16 For I said, 'Let them not triumph over me, ♦
those who exult over me when my foot slips.'
- 17 Truly, I am on the verge of falling ♦
and my pain is ever with me.
- 18 I will confess my iniquity ♦
and be sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those that are my enemies without any cause are mighty, ♦
and those who hate me wrongfully are many in number.
- 20 Those who repay evil for good are against me, ♦
because the good is what I seek.
- 21 Forsake me not, O Lord; ♦
be not far from me, O my God.
- 22 Make haste to help me, ♦
O Lord of my salvation.

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Reading: John 8: 12 – 30

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

¹³ Then the Pharisees said to him, 'You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.'

¹⁴ Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.'

¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I judge no one.

¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

¹⁷ In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid.

¹⁸ I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.'

¹⁹ Then they said to him, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.'

²⁰ He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ Again he said to them, 'I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.'

²² Then the Jews said, 'Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, "Where I am going, you cannot come"?''

²³ He said to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.'

²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.'

²⁵ They said to him, 'Who are you?' Jesus said to them, 'Why do I speak to you at all?'

²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.'

²⁷ They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father.

²⁸ So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.'

²⁹ And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.'

³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.