

Listen to God: Hear the Poor

Prayers and readings

Sunday 6th April – Sunday 13th April 2014

Cardinal Vincent Nichols



Archbishop Justin Welby



Listen to God: Hear the poor

Prayers to use each day

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Blessed are those who consider the poor and needy;

The Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble

Psalm 41.1

My heart exults in the Lord;

my strength is exalted in my God.

The Lord makes poor and makes rich;

he brings low, he also exalts.

He raises up the poor from the dust;

he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,

and on them he has set the world.

1 Samuel 2.1a, 7-9

Psalmody

The psalms and readings for each day are given below

Each psalm may end with

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

Bible reading

The psalms and readings for each day are given below

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Prayers

Pray for your local community, for those in need and for work there to serve them. Pray that Christians of all churches may draw together to fulfil Christ's commandments and that God's kingdom will come in our world and in our time.

Attend with favour to the prayers of your people, we ask, O Lord, and grant that the hearts of believers may be united in your praise and in repentance together, so that, with division among Christians overcome, we may hasten with joy to your eternal kingdom in the perfect communion of the Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Roman Missal

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal to you the world: forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

Common Worship

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
[For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.]
Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

Amen.

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Daily psalms and readings

Sunday 6th April 2014

Psalm 15 (14) (Grail Psalter, 1963)

1 Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

2 He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;

3 he who does not slander with his tongue;
He who does no wrong to his brother,

who casts no slur on his neighbour,
4 who holds the godless in disdain,

but honours those who fear the Lord;
he who keeps his pledge, come what may;

5 who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a man will stand firm forever.

Luke 4:16-21 (New Jerusalem Bible)

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.'

Monday 7th April 2014

Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11 (Common Worship Psalter)

1 God is our refuge and strength, •
a very present help in trouble;

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, •
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

3 Though the waters rage and swell, •
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, •
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed; •

10 God shall help her at the break of day.

'Be still, and know that I am God; •
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.'

11 The Lord of hosts is with us; •
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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1 John 3:16-22 (NRSV)

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

Tuesday 8th April 2014

Psalms 112 (Grail Psalter, 1963)

1 Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
2 His sons shall be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.
3 Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
4 He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
5 The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
6 The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
7 He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
8 With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.
9 Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.
10 The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Hebrews 13:1-3, (New Jerusalem Bible)

Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in the body.

Wednesday 9th April 2014

Psalms 34 (Common Worship Psalter)

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; •
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; •
let the humble hear and be glad.
3 O magnify the Lord with me; •
let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord and he answered me •
and delivered me from all my fears.

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5 Look upon him and be radiant •
and your faces shall not be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me •
and saved me from all my troubles.
7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him •
and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; •
blessed is the one who trusts in him.
9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, •
for those who fear him lack nothing.
10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger, •
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

Matthew 18:1-5 (NRSV)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

Thursday 10th April 2014

Psalms 36(35) 6-13 (Grail Psalter, 1963)

6 Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven;
your truth to the skies.
7 Your justice is like God's mountain,
your judgments like the deep.
To both man and beast you give protection.
8 O Lord, how precious is your love.
My God, the sons of men find refuge in the shelter of your wings.
9 They feast on the riches of your house;
they drink from the stream of your delight.
10 In you is the source of life
and in your light we see light.
11 Keep on loving those who know you,
doing justice for upright hearts.
12 Let the foot of the proud not crush me
nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.
13 See how the evildoers fall!
Flung down, they shall never arise.

Luke 9:12-17 (New Jerusalem Bible)

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came up to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps left over were collected they filled twelve baskets.

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Friday 11th April 2014

Psalm 126 (Common Worship Psalter)

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, •
then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter •
and our tongue with songs of joy.
3 Then said they among the nations, •
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, •
and therefore we rejoiced.
5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, •
as the river beds of the desert.
6 Those who sow in tears •
shall reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, •
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

Matthew 25:31, 34-40 (NRSV)

Jesus said: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." '

Saturday 12th April 2014

Psalm 10(9.2):12-18 (Grail Psalter, 1963)

12 Arise then, Lord, lift up your hand!
O God, do not forget the poor!
13 Why should the wicked spurn the Lord
and think in his heart: "God will not punish"?
14 But you have seen the trouble and sorrow,
you note it, you take it in hand.
The helpless trusts himself to you;
for you are the helper of the orphan.
15 Break the power of the wicked and the sinner!
Punish their wickedness till nothing remains!
16 The Lord is king for ever and ever.
The heathen shall perish from the land he rules.
17 Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor;
you strengthen their hearts; you turn your ear
18 to protect the rights of the orphan and oppressed:
so that mortal man may strike terror no more.

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Luke 6:20-26 (New Jerusalem Bible)

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How blessed are you who are poor: the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are hungry now: you shall have your fill. Blessed are you who are weeping now: you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, look! - your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have plenty to eat now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who are laughing now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when everyone speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

Sunday 13th April 2014

Psalms 72 (Common Worship Psalter)

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God, •
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously •
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace, •
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people, •
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, •
from one generation to another.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, •
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, •
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 May his dominion extend from sea to sea •
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

John 13:2b-5, 12-15, (NRSV)

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.'

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