

## March 24<sup>th</sup> Daily Prayer

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him. (Nahum 1:7)

### **The Song of Jeremiah** - *Jeremiah 31:10-14*

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
proclaim it on distant coasts, and say:  
He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,  
he guards them as a shepherd his flock.

The Lord shall ransom Jacob,  
he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror.

Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,  
they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings:  
The grain, the wine, and the oil,  
the sheep and the oxen;  
They themselves shall be like watered gardens,  
never again shall they languish.

Then the virgins shall make merry and dance,  
and young men and old as well.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.  
I will lavish choice portions upon the priests,  
and my people shall be filled with my blessings, says the Lord.

A reading from Mark 11: 27 – 33

<sup>27</sup> They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. <sup>28</sup> 'By what authority are you doing these things?' they asked. 'And who gave you authority to do this?'

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, 'I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>30</sup> John's baptism – was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!'

<sup>31</sup> They discussed it among themselves and said, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will ask, "Then why didn't you believe him?" <sup>32</sup> But if we say, "Of human origin" . . .' (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

<sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, 'We don't know.'

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid

and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Take time to be still and bring to God the needs of the world.*

*Prayers of commitment:*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

God, our fellow traveller, give us courage to leave security behind  
that we may take the path of risk and become your pilgrims.  
Give us courage to tread the road of dispossession, that we may reach out to those  
we meet and share their load.  
And give us grace to listen to those whose voice is lost, that we may hear their cry  
and shout out for justice. Amen.  
(Annabel Shilson-Thomas)

"Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us."  
(*From a prayer of Anselm, 1109*)