



## Readings and Prayers for 15th March

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

John 14:15-31 – The Promise of the Spirit



### **Sentence**

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.

*John 14:27*

### **Prayer for the Week**

O God, the fountain of life,  
to a humanity parched with thirst  
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may profess our faith with freshness  
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Psalm 44

- 1 We have heard with our ears, O God,  
our forebears have told us:  
what things you did in their time, in the days of old;
- 2 How by your own hand  
you drove out the nations, and planted us in:  
how you crushed the peoples,  
but caused us to root and grow.
- 3 For it was not by their swords  
that our fathers took possession of the land:  
nor did their own arm get them the victory
- 4 But your right hand, your arm,  
and the light of your countenance:  
because you delighted in them.
- 5 You are my king and my God:  
who ordained victory for Jacob.
- 6 By your power we struck our enemies through:  
in your name we trod down those that rose against us.
- 7 For I did not trust in my bow:  
nor could my sword save me;
- 8 But it was you that delivered us from our enemies:  
and put our adversaries to confusion.
- 9 In God we made our boast all the day long:  
we gave thanks to your name without ceasing.
- 10 But now you have cast us off and brought us to shame:  
you go not out with our armies.
- 11 You have caused us to show our backs to the enemy:  
so that our foes plunder us at will.
- 12 You have given us like sheep to be butchered:  
you have scattered us among the nations.
- 13 You have sold your people for nothing:  
and made a profitless bargain.
- 14 You have made us a laughing-stock to our neighbours:  
mocked and held in derision by those about us.
- 15 You have made us a byword among the nations:  
so that the peoples toss their heads in scorn.

## New Testament Reading

## Romans 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*Hear the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Reading

## John 14:15-31

✠*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>15</sup>‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>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.’ <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?’ <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

<sup>25</sup>‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; <sup>31</sup>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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

*If you have any questions or would like to discuss the sermon further, George would be happy to meet with you.*

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