**MORNING PRAYER READINGS  
July 29-August 2, 2024** *(Proper 12)*  
  
**NOTE ABOUT THE PSALTER SELECTIONS LISTED:**  
In an effort to pray a majority of the 150 psalms every few months, most of those referenced below are appointed for evenings in *The Book of Common Prayer* for during the current 7-week cycle.  
  
**MONDAY, July 29**(PSALM 64 & 65 BCP 671)  
  
**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Joshua [24:16-33]  
  
[The people answered Joshua:]  
 ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’   
  
But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’   
  
And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the Lord!’ Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.’   
  
And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.’   
  
The people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord. Joshua said to all the people, ‘See, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God.’ So Joshua sent the people away to their inheritances.   
  
After these things Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being one hundred and ten years old. They buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.   
  
Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.   
  
The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem, in the portion of ground that Jacob had bought from the children of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for one hundred pieces of money; it became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.   
  
Eleazar son of Aaron died; and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of his son Phinehas, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.   
  
—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [27:24-31]  
  
When Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ Then the people as a whole answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
  
**TUESDAY, July 30**(PSALM 68:1-20,24-36 BCP 676)  
  
**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Judges [2:1-5,11-23]  
  
The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said,   
‘I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you into the land that I had promised to your ancestors. I said, “I will never break my covenant with you. For your part, do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of this land; tear down their altars.”   
  
‘But you have not obeyed my command. See what you have done! So now I say, I will not drive them out before you; but they shall become adversaries to you, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’   
  
When the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the Israelites, the people lifted up their voices and wept. So they named that place Bochim, and there they sacrificed to the Lord.

Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and worshipped the Baals; and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. They abandoned the Lord, and worshipped Baal and the Astartes.   
  
So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers who plundered them, and he sold them into the power of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them to bring misfortune, as the Lord had warned them and sworn to them; and they were in great distress.   
  
Then the Lord raised up judges, who delivered them out of the power of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen even to their judges; for they lusted after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their ancestors had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord; they did not follow their example.   
  
Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord would be moved to pity by their groaning because of those who persecuted and oppressed them.   
  
But whenever the judge died, they would relapse and behave worse than their ancestors, following other gods, worshipping them and bowing down to them. They would not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel; and he said, ‘Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their ancestors, and have not obeyed my voice, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died.’ In order to test Israel, whether or not they would take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their ancestors did, the Lord had left those nations, not driving them out at once, and had not handed them over to Joshua.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [27:32-44]  
  
[As the soldiers and the whole cohort led Jesus out of the praetorium,] they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.   
  
And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, “I am God’s Son.” ’ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
  
**WEDNESDAY, July 31**(PSALM 119:73-96 BCP 769)  
  
**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Judges [3:12-30]  
  
The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord strengthened King Eglon of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord. In alliance with the Ammonites and the Amalekites, he went and defeated Israel; and they took possession of the city of palms. So the Israelites served King Eglon of Moab for eighteen years.   
  
But when the Israelites cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The Israelites sent tribute by him to King Eglon of Moab. Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length; and he fastened it on his right thigh under his clothes. Then he presented the tribute to King Eglon of Moab.   
  
Now Eglon was a very fat man. When Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent the people who carried the tribute on their way. But he himself turned back at the sculptured stones near Gilgal, and said, ‘I have a secret message for you, O king.’ So the king said, ‘Silence!’ and all his attendants went out from his presence. Ehud came to him, while he was sitting alone in his cool roof-chamber, and said, ‘I have a message from God for you.’ So he rose from his seat. Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into Eglon’s belly; the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly; and the dirt came out. Then Ehud went out into the vestibule, and closed the doors of the roof-chamber on him, and locked them.   
  
After he had gone, the servants came. When they saw that the doors of the roof-chamber were locked, they thought, ‘He must be relieving himself in the cool chamber.’ So they waited until they were embarrassed. When he still did not open the doors of the roof-chamber, they took the key and opened them. There was their lord lying dead on the floor.   
  
Ehud escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the sculptured stones, and escaped to Seirah. When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites went down with him from the hill country, having him at their head. He said to them, ‘Follow after me; for the Lord has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.’   
  
So they went down after him, and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites, and allowed no one to cross over. At that time they killed about ten thousand of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; no one escaped. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [27:45-54]  
  
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’   
  
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.’   
  
Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.   
  
At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.   
  
The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.   
  
Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
  
**THURSDAY, August 1**(PSALM 74 BCP 689)  
  
**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Judges [4:4-23]  
  
Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel.   
She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement.   
  
She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, “Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.” ’   
  
Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.’ And she said, ‘I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.’   
  
Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.   
  
Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites, that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaanannim, which is near Kedesh.   
  
When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon.   
  
Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Up! For this is the day on which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. The Lord is indeed going out before you.’ So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. And the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one was left.   
  
Now Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between King Jabin of Hazor and the clan of Heber the Kenite. Jael came out to meet Sisera, and said to him, ‘Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no fear.’ So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.   
  
Then he said to her, ‘Please give me a little water to drink; for I am thirsty.’ So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. He said to her, ‘Stand at the entrance of the tent, and if anybody comes and asks you, “Is anyone here?” say, “No.” ’   
  
But Jael wife of Heber took a tent-peg, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, until it went down into the ground—he was lying fast asleep from weariness—and he died.   
  
Then, as Barak came in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to meet him, and said to him, ‘Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.’ So he went into her tent; and there was Sisera lying dead, with the tent-peg in his temple.   
  
So on that day God subdued King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [27:55-66]  
  
Many women were also there [at Golgotha], looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.   
  
When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.   
  
The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, ‘Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, “After three days I will rise again.” Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, “He has been raised from the dead”, and the last deception would be worse than the first.’   
  
Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.’ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**FRIDAY, August 2**(PSALM 73 BCP 687)  
*Most Fridays after Pentecost are days of special devotion (BCP 17).*  
  
**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Judges [5:1-18]  
  
Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:   
‘When locks are long in Israel,  
   when the people offer themselves willingly—  
   bless the Lord!   
  
‘Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;  
   to the Lord I will sing,  
   I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.   
  
‘Lord, when you went out from Seir,  
   when you marched from the region of Edom,  
the earth trembled,  
   and the heavens poured,  
   the clouds indeed poured water.   
The mountains quaked before the Lord, the One of Sinai,  
   before the Lord, the God of Israel.   
  
‘In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,  
   in the days of Jael, caravans ceased  
   and travellers kept to the byways.   
The peasantry prospered in Israel,  
   they grew fat on plunder,  
because you arose, Deborah,  
   arose as a mother in Israel.   
When new gods were chosen,  
   then war was in the gates.  
Was shield or spear to be seen  
   among forty thousand in Israel?   
My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel  
   who offered themselves willingly among the people.  
   Bless the Lord.   
  
‘Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,  
   you who sit on rich carpets,  
   and you who walk by the way.   
To the sound of musicians at the watering-places,  
   there they repeat the triumphs of the Lord,  
   the triumphs of his peasantry in Israel.   
  
‘Then down to the gates marched the people of the Lord.   
  
‘Awake, awake, Deborah!  
   Awake, awake, utter a song!  
Arise, Barak, lead away your captives,  
   O son of Abinoam.   
Then down marched the remnant of the noble;  
   the people of the Lord marched down for him against the mighty.   
From Ephraim they set out into the valley,  
   following you, Benjamin, with your kin;  
from Machir marched down the commanders,  
   and from Zebulun those who bear the marshal’s staff;   
the chiefs of Issachar came with Deborah,  
   and Issachar faithful to Barak;  
   into the valley they rushed out at his heels.  
Among the clans of Reuben  
   there were great searchings of heart.   
Why did you tarry among the sheepfolds,  
   to hear the piping for the flocks?  
Among the clans of Reuben  
   there were great searchings of heart.   
Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan;  
   and Dan, why did he abide with the ships?  
Asher sat still at the coast of the sea,  
   settling down by his landings.   
Zebulun is a people that scorned death;  
   Naphtali too, on the heights of the field.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [28:1-10]  
  
After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.   
  
And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.   
  
For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’   
  
So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.   
  
Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).  
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]  
  
**SATURDAY, August 3**   
[Psalm 23 & 27](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm23&27.html)  
[Judges 5:19-31](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Judges+5:19-31)  
[Matt. 28:11-20](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Matthew+28:11-20)  
  
**SUNDAY, August 4** (*Proper 13,* BCP 232)  
[Psalm 34](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm34.html)  
[Judges 6:1-24](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Judges+6:1-24)  
[Mark 3:20-30](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Mark+3:20-30)