

Readings for 23rd June 2024

(from New International Version bible)

Psalm 9:9-20

⁹ The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. ¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. ¹¹ Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done. ¹² For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted. ¹³ Lord, see how my enemies persecute me! Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death, ¹⁴ that I may declare your praises in the gates of Daughter Zion, and there rejoice in your salvation. ¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden. ¹⁶ The Lord is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. ¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead, all the nations that forget God. ¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. ¹⁹ Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence. ²⁰ Strike them with terror, Lord; let the nations know they are only mortal.

A reading from Job 38:1-11

¹ Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ² "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— ⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? ⁸ "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, ¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, ¹¹ when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

A reading from 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

¹ As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³ As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.