

# Readings for 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

*(from New International Version bible)*

## Psalm 48

<sup>1</sup> Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.  
<sup>2</sup> Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. <sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress. <sup>4</sup> When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together, <sup>5</sup> they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror. <sup>6</sup> Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labor. <sup>7</sup> You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind. <sup>8</sup> As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the Lord Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever. <sup>9</sup> Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. <sup>10</sup> Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness. <sup>11</sup> Mount Zion rejoices, the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments. <sup>12</sup> Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, <sup>13</sup> consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation. <sup>14</sup> For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

## A reading from 2 Samuel 5:1-5,9,10

<sup>1</sup> All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" <sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

<sup>9</sup> David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward. <sup>10</sup> And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him.

## A reading from 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

<sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— <sup>4</sup> was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. <sup>5</sup> I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, <sup>7</sup> or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## A reading from the Gospel of Mark 6:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?” <sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. <sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.