

# Readings for 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

*(from New International Version bible)*

## Psalm 84

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! <sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. <sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. <sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob. <sup>9</sup> Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one. <sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. <sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. <sup>12</sup> Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

## A reading from Micah 6:6-8

<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

## A reading from 2 Corinthians 3:2-6

<sup>2</sup> You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. <sup>3</sup> You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. <sup>4</sup> Such confidence we have through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. <sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

# A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 24:32-36

<sup>32</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>36</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.