

MONDAY
24 AUGUST
Bartholomew
the Apostle
Isaiah 43:8-13 or
Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 145:1-7
Acts 5:12-16 or
1 Corinthians 4:9-15
Luke 22:24-30

TUESDAY
25 AUGUST
2 Thessalonians
2:1-3a. 14-end
Psalm 98
Matthew 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY
26 AUGUST
2 Thessalonians
3:6-10. 16-end
Psalm 128
Matthew 23:27-32

THURSDAY
27 AUGUST
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalm 145:1-7
Matthew 24:42-end

FRIDAY
28 AUGUST
1 Corinthians
1:17-25
Psalm 33:6-12
Matthew 25:1-13

SATURDAY
29 AUGUST
1 Corinthians
1:26-end
Psalm 33:12-15.
20-end
Matthew 25:14-30

REFLECTION

In the psalter we have a treasure for all seasons. When my prayers become dry and pointless, when I struggle to believe anything, the psalms can speak for me, and for you, if you let them. This week's psalms are realistic about our longings – we want to eat the fruit of our labour with those we love around the table. That image is homely, warm and secure, of plenty and ease. That psalm comes in the middle of this week and is held in place by praise of God and an invitation not to keep this to ourselves but to share it across the generations. Tell the kids and grandkids, tell your elders!

The week concludes with the psalm telling how God, our help and shield, has a care for all people, not just folk like us. That's the shape of the week's psalms and the delicious infill is that we are not alone in our praise of God – for the seas, the hills, the stars, the deeps, all sing together for joy in the heavens. We are in a universe of praise and singing, if only we be still and listen.

PRAYER

Glory to you, God, creator of this universe of wonder.
 We join our singing with that of all creation,
 as we marvel at what is around and within us.
 The wren, the rock and the rose proclaim a wonder,
 of which we too are a part,
 and behold, it is very good.



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THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

PART XXV – LAMENTATIONS – A BOOK ABOUT DESOLATION

Richard Greatrex continues our book-by-book series about the Bible.

Lamentations is a collection of five individual poems, each crying out with the trauma of desolation. The Greek version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, calling them the Lamentations of Jeremiah, sites them straight after the book of the prophet who witnessed the fall of Jerusalem and Temple in 587 BC. The poems iterate the pain of a nation torn apart, having seen its capital city destroyed and its holy places desecrated. In the Hebrew canon it is classified as one of the Writings, in company with the likes of Ruth and Ecclesiastes, while the attribution to Jeremiah is absent.

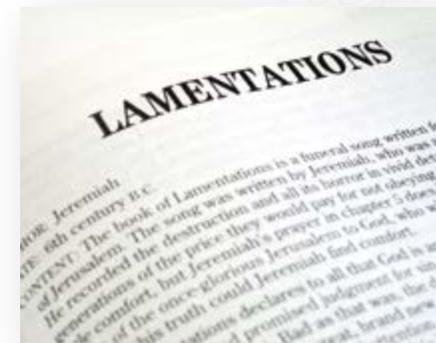
Each poem is carefully structured to consist of twenty-two (or multiples of twenty-two) lines, reflecting the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The first four poems are acrostics based on the alphabet. It is possible that each poem was written by a different author and later collated; they view the national tragedy from diverse perspectives, introducing a variety of voices that interweave throughout. We hear from an overarching narrator in poems one, two and four, but also from the viewpoint of Jerusalem personified (Daughter Zion) halfway through chapters one and two. A shamed, humiliated, captive speaks in poem three, as does the shattered nation in three, four and five. God's voice is silent throughout and, while chapter three places a note of hope at the centre of the book – *“the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases”* – this is merely a whisper that is swallowed by surrounding despair, a catalogue of suffering that, as the acrostics declare, extends from A to Z.

Liturgically, Lamentations is used in synagogues on the day of commemoration for the fall of Jerusalem and in churches on Good Friday for the death of Christ, cementing their effectiveness as prayers of grief and protest that passionately appeal to God for deliverance and transcend the brutality of dehumanising suffering, still holding on, however precariously, to faith in the power and willingness of God to save.

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith



Eleventh week
 after Trinity

Monday 24 August to
 Saturday 29 August
 2020

WEEK

The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Micklegate Weekly Pew Sheet (23-29 August)

Public worship has now resumed at Holy Trinity. All are welcome to attend in person. However, if you are unable to come in person you can still join in by telephone or internet.

From 27 July, the dates and times when the church building will be open for private prayer are changing. Alongside the Sunday Eucharist, we will be open on a Wednesday, where possible, from 10am to 3pm. This replaces openings for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays.

For those at home, the weekly pew sheet and service book will be posted to you. If you have internet access, [both are available online](#). You can join from 5 minutes before the start time.

To join by calling from your telephone

Please see the details under each service. Dial the number and when asked to, enter the meeting ID.

To join if you have internet access

Join via clicking the Zoom link (under each service below) or go to our Facebook page [Holy Trinity York](#) and watch the video.

How to contact us

Call 01904 630518 or text 07492 067803

mark@holytrinityyork.org www.holytrinityyork.org

Loving God, thank you for this house of prayer where we praise and thank you for all you have given us. Help us to go out into the world, refreshed by your Spirit, to do what you have called us to do in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 23 August – Holy Communion at 11am The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Join in person at church or from your own home/work by telephone, Zoom or Facebook

President and Preacher: The Rev'd Chris Swift

Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-6; Romans 12: 1-8; Matthew 16: 13-20

Dial-in number: 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 850 3863 5650

[Join from your computer, smartphone or tablet](#)

Collect: O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion prayer: Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wednesday 26 August – church open

The church will be open from 10am to 3pm.

Wednesday 26 August – Sext at 12.15pm

Join in person at church or from your own home/work by telephone, Zoom or Facebook

Readings: Psalm 2; Isaiah 61: 1-3a

Dial-in number: 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 875 6666 2788

[Join from your computer, smartphone or tablet](#)