

EASTER 3 – EVENING PRAYER – YEAR 1 – MAY 5 2019

The First Reading: Daniel 4:1-18

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Daniel.

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth: May you have abundant prosperity! The signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me I am pleased to recount. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his sovereignty is from generation to generation. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me. So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, in order that they might tell me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not tell me its interpretation. At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream: ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you. Hear the dream that I saw; tell me its interpretation. Upon my bed this is what I saw; there was a tree at the centre of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its

branches, and from it all living beings were fed. 'I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said: "Cut down the tree and chop off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches. But leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be bathed with the dew of heaven, and let his lot be with the animals of the field in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him. The sentence is rendered by decree of the watchers, the decision is given by order of the holy ones, in order that all who live may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals; he gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of human beings." 'This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are unable to tell me the interpretation. You are able, however, for you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Second Reading: John 21:15-25**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of John.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?’ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!’ So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?’ This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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PSALM 114

- 1 Hallelujah!  
When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

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### PSALM 115

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your Name give glory; \*  
because of your love and because of your faithfulness.
- 2 Why should the heathen say, \*  
"Where then is their God?"
- 3 Our God is in heaven; \*  
whatever he wills to do he does.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, \*  
the work of human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*  
eyes have they, but they cannot see;
- 6 They have ears but they cannot hear; \*  
noses, but they cannot smell;
- 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; \*  
they make no sound with their throat.
- 8 Those who make them are like them, \*  
and so are all who put their trust in them.
- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; \*  
he is their help and their shield.
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; \*  
he is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; \*  
he is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; \*  
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 He will bless those who fear the LORD, \*  
both small and great together.
- 14 May the LORD increase you more and more, \*  
you and your children after you.
- 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heaven of heavens is the LORD'S, \*  
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.
- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD, \*  
nor all those who go down into silence;
- 18 But we will bless the LORD, \*  
from this time forth for evermore. Hallelujah!