

Readings for 31st August 2025

(from New International Version bible)

Psalm 65

¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. ² You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. ³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. ⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. ⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, ⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, ⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. ⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. ⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. ¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. ¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing.

A reading from Jeremiah 14:1-9

Drought, Famine, Sword

¹ This is the word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought: ² "Judah mourns, her cities languish; they wail for the land, and a cry goes up from Jerusalem. ³ The nobles send their servants for water; they go to the cisterns but find no water. They return with their jars unfilled; dismayed and despairing, they cover their heads. ⁴ The ground is cracked because there is no rain in the land; the farmers are dismayed and cover their heads. ⁵ Even the doe in the field deserts her newborn fawn because there is no grass. ⁶ Wild donkeys stand on the barren heights and pant like jackals; their eyes fail for lack of food." ⁷ Although our sins testify against us, do something, Lord, for the sake of your name. For we have often rebelled; we have sinned against you. ⁸ You who are the hope of Israel, its Savior in times of distress, why are you like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who stays only a night? ⁹ Why are you like a man taken by surprise, like a warrior powerless to save? You are among us, Lord, and we bear your name; do not forsake us!

A reading from Revelation 22:1-7

Eden Restored

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. ⁶ The angel said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.' ⁷ 'Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.'

A reading from the Gospel of John 7:37-39

Receive The Living water

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.