

The First Reading is from Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch-post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119: verses 137 - 144, read by alternate half verses:

137 Righteous are you, O Lord, ♦
and true are your judgements.

138 You have ordered your decrees in righteousness ♦
and in great faithfulness.

139 My indignation destroys me, ♦
because my adversaries forget your word.

140 Your word has been tried to the uttermost ♦
and so your servant loves it.

141 I am small and of no reputation, ♦
yet do I not forget your commandments.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness ♦
and your law is the truth.

143 Trouble and heaviness have taken hold upon me, ♦
yet my delight is in your commandments.

144 The righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting; ♦
O grant me understanding and I shall live. Amen.

The Second Reading is from John 8: 12 - 20

Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Then the Pharisees said to him, 'You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.' Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.' Then they said to him, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.' He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Adapted version of Hymn 350

1.

For the beauty of the earth:

Majestic mountains, verdant vales,

Mighty oaks and brilliant flowers,

We bring/ our offering of praise.

CHORUS:

Christ our God, to thee we raise

This our sacrifice of praise.

2.

For the beauty of the skies:

Singing larks and fluttering bats,

Warming sun and refreshing rain,

We bring/ our offering of praise.

CHORUS

3.

For the ugly of the earth:

Piles of waste, which won't break down,

Resources depleted forgetting tomorrow,

We bring/ our confession of sorrow.

CHORUS

4.

For the ugly of the skies:

Global warming and rising seas,

Droughts and floods bring new horror,

We bring/ our confession of sorrow.

CHORUS

5.

For the healing of the earth:

Guide us to restore our ways,

Help us to do as you would do,

With future/ generations and with you.

CHORUS

6.

For the healing of the skies:

Open our eyes to your selfless ways,

Stir our hearts to live life today,

That all might enjoy life tomorrow.

CHORUS

Original: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917)

Adapted for 'Service of Light & Eco-Justice' Clonegal