

Sunday 16th August 2026 11th Sunday after Trinity

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.

or

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Readings

New Testament Reading

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.

32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 15.10–20 21–28

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, Listen and understand:

11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.

12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?

13 He answered, Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.

15 But Peter said to him, Explain this parable to us.

16 Then he said, Are you also still without understanding?

17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.]

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.

23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.

24 He answered, I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 He answered, It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.

27 She said, Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table.

28 Then Jesus answered her, Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish. And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

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.

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