

 **Sunday 8 June**
Pentecost

First Reading - Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples

were all together in one place,
when suddenly, all around them,

there was a sound

like the rush of a violent wind,
filling the entire house
where they were meeting.

Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,
and rested on each of them.

And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,
and began to speak in many languages.

At this sound,

a crowd began to gather,
made up of Jewish believers who were
staying in Jerusalem -

from Asia and Arabia,

Egypt and North Africa,

Judea, Turkey, Syria,

Greece and the Balkans,

Crete, and Rome,

both Hebrews and converts.

They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking
are all from Galilee.

And yet we hear them

declaring the greatness of God,
each

in our own language.

What can this mean?'

But others mocked and said, 'They have had
too much wine.'

Peter, standing with the eleven,

raised his voice,

and addressed the crowd, saying:

'People of Judea,

and all who are here in Jerusalem:

these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No; this is what was spoken

through the prophet Joel,

when God declared: "In those days,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

The young will see visions,

your elders will dream dreams,

and your sons and your daughters

will receive and proclaim my word.

There will be wonders and signs

in the heavens, and on the earth:

blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,

the sun turned to darkness

and the moon blood red,

before the coming

of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord

will be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now that you are led

by the spirit of God,

you are adopted

as children of God.

God receives you

not as slaves, to fall back into fear,

but as adopted children,

able to address God

as 'Abba' and 'Father'.

And being adopted

as children of God,

we inherit all things,

alongside Christ Jesus himself,

including

both his suffering

and his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.8-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord,

show us the Father.'

Jesus said, 'Philip,

have I been with you, all this time,

and still, you do not know me?

Whoever has seen me

has seen the Father,

for I am in the Father,

and the Father is in me.

The words that I speak

are the words

of the Father

within me.

And now, those who

trust in me

will do all that I have done,

and more,

because I am returning

to the Father.

And I will do

whatever you ask

in my name;

and in this way also,

I will bring glory

to the Father.

And if you love me,

and live by all

that I have taught you,

I will ask the Father,

and he will send you

the Holy Spirit,

to be with you -

the Spirit of truth,

unknown to the world,

but known to you,

to be alongside you,

amongst you,

and within you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 15 June
Trinity Sunday

First Reading - Proverbs 8.1-3, 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.
Wisdom calls out,
and Understanding raises her voice.
On the hills, along the road,
and at the meeting of the ways,
she takes her stand.
At the city gates,
she declares: 'I was created
as the first
of the works of the Lord.
Before the beginning
of the earth,
I was established.
Before the mountains and the hills
had been formed,
before there were springs of water,
before there was even
dust
upon the ground,
Wisdom
was brought forth.
When the Lord established the heavens,
I was there.
When the Lord drew a circle
on the face
of the deep,
made firm the skies above,
and set the boundaries
of the oceans,
I was the skilled apprentice
at the Master's side.
I was daily
the Lord's delight,
rejoicing
in the presence of the Lord,
and rejoicing
in the whole of creation,
and the whole human race.
So now, my children, hear me -
for blessed are those who walk
in the ways of Wisdom.
Hear my teaching, and be wise;
do not refuse it.
For those who lack wisdom
do themselves harm,
but blessed
are those who learn Wisdom,
attending every day to my teaching.
To hate Wisdom
is to love death -
but those who find Wisdom
find life,
and the favour of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 5.1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
We have been reconciled with God, by faith,
in our Lord Jesus Christ.
And now we stand, with joyful confidence,
in the grace,
and the peace,
and the glory of God.
We rejoice even in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces confidence.
And we know
that this confidence
will not be disappointed -
because God's love
has been poured into our hearts
through the gift
of the Holy Spirit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 16.12-15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Jesus said to his disciples:
'I still have
many things
to say to you -
more
than you can know.
But the Spirit of Truth
will come to you,
and guide you
into all truth;
honouring me,
by taking
what is mine,
and making it known to you;
disclosing to you
the things
that are to come.
All that the Father has
is mine;
and the Spirit of Truth
will take
what is mine,
and make it known to you.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

First Reading - Isaiah 65.2-5,8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
I call out, even to a people
that does not call to me, says the Lord.
I hold out my hand to them, even though
they are a people in rebellion against me.
They walk in wicked ways; they provoke me continually,
sacrificing in gardens, burning incense on bricks,
dwelling amongst the tombs, eating forbidden foods,
then claiming to be
so holy
that others
must not come near.
They irritate like smoke in my nostrils
from a fire that burns all day long!
And yet, for the sake of the good that remains in them,
I will not destroy them, says the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 3.21,23-29

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.
The law can bring neither life, nor righteousness.
Yet the law served as our guardian, until the time
when Christ came to reconcile us to God
not by law, but by faith.
And now, we are no longer subject to the law
as a guardian,
for by faith in Christ Jesus,
we are made children of God.
And indeed, all those who are baptised into Christ
are equally adopted as children of God.
There is neither Hebrew nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female;
for all are one in Christ Jesus.
And all become inheritors, together,
of the promises made
to Abraham.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 8.1-3,26-39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus travelled on, through towns and villages,
proclaiming the good news
of the kingdom of God.
Amongst those travelling with Jesus and the twelve
were some women who had been healed,
or freed from tormenting spirits.
The women included
Mary Magdalene, who had been
freed from seven demons,
and Joanna, who was the wife
of a leading member of Herod's court.
There was also Susanna;
and there were many others.
These women helped to provide for Jesus,
and all the disciples,
out of their own resources.

Jesus and the disciples
travelled by boat
to the eastern side
of the sea of Galilee.
As Jesus stepped ashore,
he was met
by a man from the city who was
tormented by demons.
The man was kept under guard, and in chains,
but he would break out,
and live wild amongst the tombs.
When Jesus commanded
the unclean spirit
to come out of him,
the man fell down at Jesus' feet,
and shouted out, 'Why are you here, Jesus,
Son of God Most High?
I beg you, do not torment me!'
Jesus asked, 'What is your name?'
And the man replied,
'Legion';
for many demons had entered him;
and they begged Jesus
not to order them
into the abyss.
A large herd of pigs
was feeding on the hillside,
and the demons begged Jesus
to let them enter these instead,
and Jesus permitted them.
So the demons
came out of the man,
and entered
into the pigs.
And the entire herd
rushed down
the steep bank
into the lake,
and was drowned.
When those who were responsible for the pigs
saw what had happened,
they fled,
telling everyone,
in the city,
and in the surrounding countryside,
what had happened.
When people came to see,
they found the man,
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and calm.
Overcome with fear,
they asked Jesus to leave.
Jesus returned to the boat
in which he had arrived.
The man who had been freed from the demons
begged to join those
travelling with Jesus,
but Jesus said, 'Return to your home,
and tell them there
of all that God has done for you.'
And he went and told, throughout the city,
of all that Jesus had done for him.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 29 June
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.15a,16b,19-21

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to the prophet Elijah,
'You are to go
to the wilderness of Damascus,
to anoint Elisha to be my prophet, in your place.'
So Elijah travelled to the wilderness of Damascus,
and found Elisha, ploughing in a field,
with twelve pairs of oxen
working ahead of him.
Elijah walked past Elisha,
and as he did so, he threw his cloak over him.
Elisha left the oxen,
and ran after Elijah,
saying, 'Let me bid farewell
to my father and mother,
and then I will follow you.'
Elijah replied, 'Go back to them then.
I have done what I had to do.'
Returning to the field,
Elisha slaughtered the oxen, and used
the wooden equipment
to light a fire,
on which he cooked the oxen.
Elisha gave
the cooked meat
to the people,
and they ate.
Then Elisha
set out, and followed Elijah.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 5.17-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The works of the flesh,
in opposition to the spirit,
are hatred and conflict, jealousy and anger;
arguments, rivalries, and factions;
sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry,
sorcery, and excesses of all kinds.
I say again: those who live in this way
are not inheriting the kingdom of God.
By contrast, the fruit of the spirit is
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
There is no law
against
these fruits of the spirit -
so if you are truly led by the spirit,
you are not
subject
to any law!
Those who belong to Christ Jesus
have crucified the flesh,
with its passions and desires,
and live now,
not by the flesh, but by the spirit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 9.51-62

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

The time was drawing near
for Jesus
to be lifted up,
and he set his face
towards Jerusalem.
He sent
messengers
ahead of him.
And the messengers
entered a village
in Samaria.
But the villagers
would not receive him,
because
his face was set
towards Jerusalem.
The disciples James and John
said, 'Lord,
do you want us
to call down
fire
from heaven
to destroy them?'
But Jesus turned and rebuked them,
and they went on
to another village.
As they were travelling along the road,
someone said to Jesus,
'I will follow you
wherever you go.'
Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes,
and birds have nests,
but the Son of Man
has nowhere
to lay his head.'
When Jesus called another
to follow him,
the reply was, 'Let me first go
and bury my father.'
But Jesus said, 'Let the dead
bury
their own dead;
you,
go and proclaim
the kingdom of God!'
Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord;
but let me first
bid farewell
to my household.'
Jesus said, 'If you put your hand to the plough,
and then look backwards,
you are not yet ready
for the kingdom of God.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 6 July
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 66.10-14a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
Sing for joy with all Jerusalem!
All who love her, rejoice!
Mourn no longer,
for she will be great once again!
And you will be comforted,
like a child in a mother's embrace!
For the Lord will grant her
peace like a river,
and the glory of the nations!
As a mother comforts her child,
so the Lord will comfort you, in Jerusalem.
You will be carried on her arm,
and held in her lap.
When you see it,
your heart will rejoice,
and you will flourish like the tender grass.
And all who serve the Lord
will know
that the hand of the Lord
is with them.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.3-4,9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.
We joyfully give thanks to God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whenever we pray for you,
for we have heard
of your great faith in Christ Jesus,
and the love that you have
for all the saints.
We pray that God will fill you
with the knowledge of God's will,
and with spiritual wisdom and understanding.
And we pray that God will fill you
with all of the glorious power of God:
with strength, and endurance,
with patience, and with perseverance
to lead lives which are worthy of the Lord,
and fully pleasing to the Lord,
so that you can bear fruit,
in every good work, as you grow
in the knowledge of God;
and so that
with us
you can
joyfully give thanks
to God the Father, who has
rescued us
from
the power of darkness
to dwell, forgiven,
with the saints, in light,
in the kingdom
of his beloved Son.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.1-11, 17-20, 23-24

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
The Lord appointed seventy
to go ahead of him, in pairs, to every
town and place
where he himself
intended to go.
As he sent them on their way,
he said to them,
'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few -
so ask the Lord of the harvest
to send more workers for the harvest.
And yet I send you out
like lambs amongst wolves.
Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes, as you go.
Do not delay your journey
by greeting all those
you meet along the way.
When you enter a house,
offer a greeting of peace.
If your hosts
are people of peace,
your peace
will rest upon them -
and if they are not,
your peace
will return to you.
Remain in the same house, eating and drinking
whatever they provide,
for a worker
deserves to be paid.
When you enter a town, and they welcome you,
eat whatever they offer you,
heal the sick,
and say to them, "The kingdom of God
has come near to you."
When you enter a town, and they do not welcome you,
stand in their streets and say,
"We wipe the dust of this place off our feet
in protest against you.
But still know this: that the kingdom of God
has come near to you."
But the seventy returned with joy,
saying, 'Lord, even the demons obey
when we speak in your name.'
Jesus said, 'I watched Satan fall
like a flash of lightning; for I have given you authority
over all the power of the enemy,
and nothing can harm you.
But the greatest joy
is this: that your names
are written in heaven.
And blessed are the eyes
that see
what you see.
For prophets and kings
longed to see
what you now see,
and to hear
what you now hear.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 13 July
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Return to the Lord your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul.
Trust in the Lord your God,
and observe the commandments and decrees
that are written
in this book of the law.
The commandment of the Lord
that I bring to you, today,
is not
too hard for you.
Neither is it
too far away,
as though you would
need someone
to cross the ocean, or go up to heaven,
to bring it to you.
No, for the commandment of the Lord
is very near to you;
it is already
on your lips, and in your heart.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.
Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ,
and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things,
in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.25-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.
'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do
to receive eternal life?'
Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law?
And what is your understanding of it?'
The lawyer answered, 'You shall love
the Lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
And you shall love your neighbour
as yourself.'
Jesus said to him, 'You have given a good answer.
Do this, and you will live.'
Still wanting to justify himself,
the lawyer asked Jesus, 'But who is my neighbour?'
Jesus replied,
'A man was travelling on the road
from Jerusalem to Jericho,
when he was set upon
by robbers, who took everything he had,
and beat him, and left him for dead.
Now by chance, a priest
was going down the same road;
and when the priest saw the wounded man,
he passed by on the other side.
In the same way, a Levite
came to the place, and seeing the wounded man,
he also passed by on the other side.
But a Samaritan, travelling that way,
saw the wounded man,
and was moved with pity.
The Samaritan
went to the wounded man,
and poured oil and wine
on his wounds,
and bandaged them.
Then the Samaritan
put the wounded man
on his own horse,
brought him to an inn,
and took care of him.
The next day, the Samaritan took out
two silver coins,
and gave them to the innkeeper,
saying, "Take care of him;
and whatever more you spend,
I will pay you
when I return."
Which of these three, do you think,
was a neighbour,
to the man who was set upon
by the robbers?'
The lawyer said,
'The one who showed him mercy.'
Jesus said to the lawyer,
'Go and do likewise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 20 July
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.1-10a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is how the Lord
appeared to Abraham
at Hebron.
As Abraham sat
at the entrance to his tent
in the heat of the day,
he looked up
and saw three figures
standing near by.
He ran to them,
and bowed down,
saying, 'My Lord,
if I have found favour in your sight,
do not pass by,
but rest here
in the shade,
and let me bring water
to wash your feet,
and bread,
that you may eat,
and be restored,
before you continue
on your way.'
Abraham hurried back to the tent,
and asked Sarah
to prepare three measures
of the finest flour,
and knead it quickly
to make bread.
He went out
to the cattle,
and took the best calf,
and gave it to the servant,
to prepare it.
Then he took butter,
and milk,
and the meat of the calf,
and set it before the three visitors.
And he stood by them,
in the shade of the tree,
while they ate.
They said to Abraham,
'Where is Sarah, your wife?'
Abraham said, 'She is there,
in the tent.'
And one of them said,
'I will surely return to you
when the time is right,
and Sarah, your wife,
will have a son.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 2.12-14, 3.1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Once, we were dead
in our trespasses.
But now, we have been raised up
to new life in Christ.
All our trespasses are forgiven;
the account that stood against us
has been erased;
all of its demands have been
nailed to the cross.
In our baptism, first we were
buried with Christ;
then, we were raised up
to new life with Christ;
and all this
through our faith in the power of God, who
raised Christ from the dead.
So now that we have been raised up
to new life in Christ,
let us set our minds no longer
on the things of earth,
but on the things of heaven, where
the risen Christ
is in the presence of God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.38-42

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

Jesus and his disciples
entered a village
as they continued on their way.
In that village, a woman called Martha
welcomed Jesus into her home.
Martha had a sister called Mary,
and Mary sat at the Lord's feet,
listening
to his words.
But Martha was distracted
by her many tasks;
and she said to Jesus, 'Lord,
do you not care
that my sister
has left me
to do all the work
by myself?
Tell her
that she is
to help me!'
But the Lord answered her, 'Martha,
you are anxious
and distracted
by many things,
but there is need
of only one.
Mary has chosen
that one good thing,
and it will not
be taken away from her.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 27 July
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.23-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham approached the Lord and said,

‘Will the Lord destroy the righteous
along with the wicked?’

If there are fifty righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the whole city,
including the fifty righteous
within it?

Surely the Lord will not
do such a thing,
to slay the righteous
along with the wicked.

Surely the Judge of all the earth
will do what is right.’

And the Lord said, ‘If I find fifty righteous
in the city,
I will spare the whole city
for their sake.’

Abraham said,
‘Let me dare to speak again to the Lord,
even though I am but dust and ashes.
If there are only forty-five righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the city
for the lack of five?’

And the Lord said, ‘I will not
destroy the city,
if I find forty-five righteous there.’

Again, Abraham spoke to the Lord, for forty,
and thirty, and twenty, righteous.

And Abraham said, ‘Oh do not
let the Lord be angry,
if I speak one more time.

If only ten righteous are found,
will the Lord destroy the city?’

And the Lord answered, ‘For the sake of ten
righteous, I will not
destroy the city.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 3.12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

You are now

God’s chosen ones,
holy, and loved by God.

So clothe yourselves
with compassion, and kindness;
and with humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be gentle with one another.

And if any one amongst you
has a complaint against another,
forgive one another,
as the Lord has forgiven you.

Above all, let there be love, which is
the bond of perfect unity.

And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,
for to this we are called,
as one body in Christ.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly within you,
so that in wisdom
you may teach and encourage one another.
And with grateful hearts, sing to God
with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
always giving thanks to God the Father
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 11.1-13

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

One of the disciples
said to Jesus, ‘Lord,
teach us to pray,
as John
taught his disciples.’

Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, holy is your name;
may your kingdom come.

Give us, each day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we ourselves forgive
everyone who trespasses against us.

And do not bring us
to the time of trial.’

Then he said to them, ‘If you go to a friend,
at midnight, saying, “Lend me some bread,
for a guest has arrived,
and I have nothing prepared,”

your friend may answer, from within,
“Do not bother me;
for the door is locked, and we are all in bed.”

But I tell you, while your friend may not
get up and give you anything
because of your friendship,
eventually, because of your persistence,
your friend will get up and give you
whatever you need.

So I say to you:

ask, and it will be given;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened.

For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.

If your child asks
for a fish, or an egg,
you do not
give a snake, or a scorpion.

Even the wicked
know how to give
good gifts
to their children.

How much more
will our heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 3 August
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Ecclesiastes 1.12-14; 2.18-26a

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

When I, the Teacher,
was king, over Israel, in Jerusalem,
I applied my mind
to understand, by wisdom,
all that is done
under heaven.
I saw all the deeds that are done
under the sun.
And look, this is what I saw: that it is
a tiresome burden
that God has given
to occupy humankind;
that all of it
is vanity,
like chasing after the wind.
I came to despise
all that I had done,
and all that I had laboured to achieve,
seeing that I must leave it all
to those who come after me,
not knowing
whether they will be
wise, or foolish.
Yet they will be master
over everything
for which I laboured -
everything to which
I applied my wisdom.
So I gave up my heart to despair
concerning all my work,
because even one who has laboured
with wisdom, and knowledge, and skill,
must leave it all
to be enjoyed
by another, who did not work for it;
and this is a great injustice.
For mortals gain nothing
for all their labour under the sun.
Their days are full of pain,
and each task is a burden.
Even at night,
their minds do not rest.
But then I saw this,
from the hand of God:
that there is nothing better for mortals
than to eat, and drink,
and find enjoyment in their work;
for no mortal
can eat,
or drink, or find joy,
without God.
And while the sinner labours
to store up wealth
that will only be taken away,
to the one who pleases God, God gives
wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 10.32-36

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When you first received the light of Christ,
you endured great suffering,
with public slanders, and persecutions.
And you supported
those who were suffering in the same way.
You had compassion
on those who were in prison.
And you cheerfully accepted
the loss of your possessions,
knowing that you have
a greater possession
that does not pass away.
Never let go
of that faith and confidence,
for it holds a great reward.
And then, when you have persevered
in doing the will of God, you will receive
all that God has promised.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.13-21

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

Someone in the crowd
said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother
to divide his inheritance with me.'
But Jesus said, 'Watch out,
and be on your guard,
against every kind of jealousy and greed!
For the richness of your life
is not found
in the quantity
of your worldly possessions!'
And Jesus told them this parable.
'After another great harvest,
a wealthy land-owner
said to himself,
"I have run out of space
to store all my crops.
I will have to
pull down my barns,
and build larger ones,
to store all my grain,
and all my possessions.
Then, having enough
to last many years,
I will relax,
eat, drink, and be merry."
But God said
to him, "You fool!
This very night, your life
is being taken from you.
And all the things you have acquired -
whose will they be?"
And Jesus said to them, 'This is how it will be
for those who store up
treasure for themselves on earth,
but in God's eyes
have no riches at all.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 10 August
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 12.1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.
The Lord said to Abram, 'You are to leave
your country, your people,
and your father's house,
and go to the land
that I will show you.
And I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you.
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing to many.
I will bless
those who bless you.
and I will rebuke
those who dishonour you.
And in you,
all the nations of the earth
will be blessed.'
So Abram set out,
as the Lord had directed.
And Abram departed from Haran,
with his wife Sara,
and his nephew Lot,
and all their household,
and all their possessions,
as the Lord had directed.
They came to the land of Canaan;
and they passed through the land,
and its people,
to a great oak, in the centre of the land.
There, the Lord appeared to Abram,
saying, 'To your offspring,
I will give this land.'
And Abram built an altar there,
to the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 11.1, 8-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
Faith
is the assurance of things hoped for;
and confidence, in things not yet seen.
It was by faith
that Abraham trusted, and obeyed,
when he was called to set out to a place
that would become his inheritance.
It was by faith
that he set out
before he even knew the destination.
It was by faith
that he lived there,
like a stranger in a foreign land,
without any settled home;
as did Isaac, and Jacob, after him.
For by faith,
they could look forward, in confident expectation,
to the city with a sure foundation,
designed and built by God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.22-34

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus said to his disciples,
'Do not worry
about what you will eat,
or what you will wear,
for life is more than food,
and the body is more than clothing.
Look at the birds:
they do not plant
or harvest;
they have no storehouse, or barn,
and yet God feeds them.
And you are more valuable
than the birds.
Look at the wild flowers,
how they grow:
they do not
weave or sew,
and yet
not even Solomon
in all his glory
was clothed
as finely as these.
If this is how
God clothes
the grass, which is alive today,
and dried up tomorrow,
then how much more
will God clothe you!
So have faith!
Do not worry, as others do,
about what you will eat,
or what you will drink.
Worrying
will not add
a single hour
to your span of life.
And your heavenly Father knows
that you need these things.
So work instead
for the kingdom of God,
and all these other things
will be given to you
as well.
Do not be afraid,
for your Father longs
to give you
the kingdom.
So sell what you have,
and give
to those in need.
Store up your treasure in heaven,
where nothing decays,
and no thief
can come near.
And where your treasure is,
there
your heart will be
also.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 17 August

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 23.25-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

I have heard
the false prophets, who speak
lies and delusions
in my name,
says the Lord.
Like those who went before them,
they make my people
forget my name,
by the lies
that they tell
one another.
Let the prophets who have delusions
tell their delusions -
but let the prophets who have my word
proclaim it with confidence.
They differ
like straw
from grain,
for my word
is like fire,
or like a hammer
that breaks a rock
into pieces,
says the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12.1-3

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Inspired by these people of great faith,
from every generation,
let us run with perseverance
the race that is now set before us,
throwing off
every burden
that would hold us back,
and looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
Confident in the greater joy
that lay beyond,
Jesus endured the cross,
disregarding its shame.
And now he is seated in glory,
at the right hand of God.
May his patient endurance
of such hostility from sinners
be our inspiration,
that we may never
grow weary
or lose heart.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.49-56

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have come
to bring fire
to the earth,
and how I long
to see it burning.
I have a baptism
to undergo,
and I am distressed
until
it is completed.
You think
that I have come
to bring peace
to the earth.
But I tell you -
not peace
but division.
Even households
will be divided,
three
against two,
and two
against three;
father
against son,
mother
against daughter,
members
of the household
against
each other.
When you see
clouds
in the west,
you know
that
rain
is on its way.
And when you see
wind
from the south,
you know
there
will be
scorching heat.
You know
how to interpret
the appearance
of earth
and sky,
and yet
you do not know
how to interpret
this present time!'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 24 August
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 58.9-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
If you remove the heavy burdens
from the weary amongst you,
if you offer food to the hungry,
and address the needs
of those who are suffering,
and if you refrain from pointing the finger
and speaking wickedness,
then
your light
will rise in the darkness,
your gloom
will become
like the brightness
of the midday sun,
and when you cry for help,
the Lord will answer.
Then the Lord will guide you,
provide for you, and strengthen you.
Then you will flourish
like a garden, by a stream that never runs dry.
Then you will rebuild the city from its ruins,
restoring its walls
and its homes.
If you honour the sabbath,
and call the Lord's day
a delight,
not trampling its dignity
by serving your own interests,
or pursuing your own affairs,
then
you will find your joy in the Lord,
and in all the gifts
that the Lord has given.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12.22-24, 28-29

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
We come now
to Mount Zion,
the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem.
We come to the place
where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice;
the place where those who have gone before us
are welcomed into heaven,
and the spirits of the righteous
are made perfect.
We come to God, the judge of all;
and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant;
and to redemption by his blood.
As we enter now
into a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
let us offer our worship
with thanksgiving, reverence, and even holy fear,
for our God is still 'a consuming fire'.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 13.10-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus was teaching
in one of the synagogues
on the sabbath.
A woman was there, who had suffered
a disabling weakness
for eighteen years.
She was bent over, unable
to stand upright.
Jesus saw her, and spoke to her,
saying, 'You are set free
from your illness.'
As he spoke,
he laid a hand upon her;
and immediately,
she stood fully upright;
and she began
praising and glorifying God.
But the leader of the synagogue
was indignant
because Jesus had healed her
on the sabbath.
The leader of the synagogue
said to the crowd,
'There are six days
on which work should be done.
Let healing be done
on those days,
not on the sabbath.'
But the Lord answered him,
saying, 'You hypocrite!
Every one of you, on the sabbath,
would untie your donkey,
and lead it to water.
This woman
is a daughter of Abraham,
kept bound
by Satan
for eighteen years.
And you would refuse to release her,
just because
it is the sabbath!'
All his opponents
were put to shame
by these words.
And the entire crowd
was rejoicing
at the wonderful things
that he was doing.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 31 August

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 16.9-12

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Seven weeks after the first cut of the harvest,
you are to keep a festival to the Lord your God.
From the bounty of your harvest,
you are to make
a free-will offering,
and celebrate,
in the presence of the Lord,
with your sons and daughters,
and your servants,
and the Levites in your towns,
and also the foreigners,
and the orphans,
and the widows, who are amongst you.
You are all to celebrate together
in the place
that the Lord your God
will choose
as a dwelling for God's holy name.
You must carefully
observe these commands,
for you must never forget
that you were once, yourselves,
in slavery, in Egypt.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 13.1-9a, 15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
Keep on loving one another
as brothers and sisters in Christ.
And show hospitality
to whoever comes to you,
for by doing this, some have hosted
angels, without knowing it.
Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were
in prison alongside them.
Remember all who are
mistreated, as though you yourself
were suffering with them, as one body.
Let marriage be held in honour
by all.
Keep your lives free
from the love of money.
Find contentment
in what you have.
For God has said, 'I will never
leave you, nor forsake you.'
So we can say with confidence:
'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'
Remember the leaders who
first brought
the word of God to you,
and the good
that they achieved
by their way of living,
and follow their example of faith.

Do not be led astray
by every new idea,
for Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and for ever.
And now, let us be
continually
offering to God, through Christ,
worthy and acceptable sacrifices
of both words and deeds,
by praise and proclamation of God's name,
and by doing good works - including
sharing all that we have.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.1, 7-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
One sabbath day, Jesus was dining
in the house
of one of the leaders of the Pharisees.
He saw
how the guests
chose the places of honour,
and he told them this parable.
'When you are invited
to a wedding feast,
do not sit down
straight away
at the highest table,
for you may then be told
to give up that place
to another guest,
and the only place left
might be
the furthest away.
But go and sit first
in a humble place,
and your host
might say, "Friend, come up and sit closer,"
and in this way, you will be honoured
in front of all the other guests.
For those who place themselves
above others
will be brought down.
But those who choose to be humble
will be lifted up.'
And to the one who had
invited him, Jesus said:
'When you host a meal,
do not invite your friends, or your relatives,
or your wealthy neighbours,
for they will invite you
in return, and you will be repaid.
But when you host a banquet,
invite the poor, and the weak,
the lame, and the blind;
and you will be blessed, because
they cannot repay you.
And you will be repaid
at the resurrection
of the righteous.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 7 September
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Today I set before you
life and prosperity,
or death and adversity.
If you love the Lord your God,
and keep the commandments of the Lord your God,
you will live, and become numerous,
and the Lord your God will bless you,
in the land that you are entering to possess.
But if your heart turns away,
and you do not
hear and receive these words,
but instead
allow yourselves
to be led astray,
to bow down to other gods, and serve them,
I declare today
that you will perish;
that you will not
live long
in the land that you are crossing the Jordan
to enter and possess.
I call on heaven and earth
to serve as witnesses today,
as I set before you the choice of
life or death, of
blessing or adversity.
Now choose life,
for yourselves, and your descendants,
by loving, trusting, and holding fast
to the Lord your God.
For the Lord is your life.
And so may you
live long
in the land
that the Lord promised to your ancestors -
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philemon 10,12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I am writing to appeal to you
regarding Onesimus, who has
become like a son to me
during my imprisonment.
In sending him back to you,
I am sending my own heart.
I wanted to keep him with me,
so that he could be of service to me,
while I remain in chains for the gospel;
but I preferred
not to make
any such decision
without your consent,
so that your goodness
could be voluntary,
and not imposed upon you.

Perhaps Onesimus was even
separated from you
for a while
so that you could receive him back
for ever;
and receive him back
no longer as a servant,
but as a dear brother,
both as a fellow human being,
and as a brother in the Lord.
As he has been very dear
to me,
may he now be
even more dear
to you.
I ask you to welcome him
as you would welcome me.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.25-33

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

Large crowds
were now following Jesus.
He turned
and said to them,
'If you come to me,
to be my disciple,
you must be ready
to give up
all that you have;
ready
to forsake
your father and mother,
your husband or wife, your children,
your brothers and sisters,
even life itself;
ready
to carry your cross,
and follow me.'
And he told them
two parables.
'Before you start to build a tower,
you must work out
whether you can afford to complete it;
for if you abandon it, incomplete,
all who see it
will mock.
And a king
will not go to war
if his army is unprepared
for the forces of the enemy;
instead, he will send
a delegation
to ask the terms for peace.
In the same way, you cannot
become my disciple
unless you are ready
to give up
all that you have.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 14 September
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 32.7-8, 10-11, 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

At the top of Mount Sinai,
the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down
at once
to your people,
the people you brought
out of Egypt,
for they have corrupted themselves.
They have already turned aside
from the way that I commanded them.
They have made for themselves
an image
of a calf;
and they have worshipped it,
and made sacrifices to it.
They have even declared
that this is the god who
brought them out of Egypt.
Now let my anger
burn hot against them
to destroy them.
And from you alone
I will make a great nation.'
But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God,
saying, 'O Lord,
do not let your anger
burn hot against your people,
the people you brought out of Egypt
with great power
and with your own
mighty hand.
Remember your promise
to your servants
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
that you would multiply their descendants
like the stars of heaven,
and give them this land
as their inheritance.'
And the Lord heard
Moses' plea,
and drew back
from anger
at the rebellion of the people.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1.12-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I give thanks
to Jesus Christ our Lord
for showing the utmost patience
in strengthening me, raising me up,
and appointing me into his service;
and so demonstrating in me, the worst of all sinners,
the truth I now proclaim,
that it might be heard and received, in every nation:
that Christ Jesus
came into the world
to save sinners.

For in my ignorance and unbelief,
I was surely
the worst of all sinners,
persecuting,
slandering, and abusing the church.
But the saving mercy and grace of our Lord
overflowed for me
even more,
that with the faith
and love
that are in Christ Jesus,
I myself
might be an example
of God's saving mercy and grace
for all who will come to believe
in Christ Jesus
for eternal life.
To the King
of the ages,
immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory for ever.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 15.1-10

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

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were collectors of the Roman taxes,
and other notorious sinners.
Jesus welcomed them,
and would even sit and eat with them.
For this, the Pharisees and the scribes
complained
against Jesus.
So Jesus told them this parable:
'If you have a hundred sheep, and lose one,
you surely leave
the ninety-nine, feeding in the pasture,
and go searching
for the one that is lost.
And when you find it, you carry it home,
and you call your friends and neighbours,
"Come, celebrate with me!
I have found the sheep that was lost!"
In the same way,
there is more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents,
than over ninety-nine righteous, who need
no repentance.
And if a woman has ten silver coins, and loses one,
she lights a lamp,
sweeps the house,
and searches until she finds it.
Then she calls her friends and neighbours, "Come,
celebrate with me!
I have found the silver coin that was lost."
In the same way,
when one sinner repents,
all the angels of God rejoice.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 21 September
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 8.4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Hear this,
you that trample
on the needy,
and bring the poor of the land
to ruin!
You long
for the new moon holiday
to be over,
you long
for the sabbath
to end,
so that you can return
to trading
in wheat and grain,
with your dishonest
balances, measures, and weights,
and the chaff
still in
with the wheat.
With your silver
you buy the poor;
and you enslave the needy
for a single pair of shoes.
The Lord has sworn,
by the honour of Jacob: I will not
forget your deeds.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2.1-7

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

Pray,
and give thanks,
for everyone;
including kings,
and all in authority;
that there may be peace,
so that we can live
with godliness,
and dignity.
For God our Saviour
longs for everyone
to be saved,
and to know this truth -
the truth I was called to proclaim
to all nations
as an apostle -
that there is
one God,
and there is
one mediator
between God and humankind -
Christ Jesus,
himself human, who gave himself
as a ransom for all.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 16.1-13

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

Jesus said, 'A rich man's manager
was accused
of wasteful spending.
So the rich man told the manager
to finalise his accounts, and leave.
The manager said to himself, "What can I do,
now that my master
is dismissing me?
I am too weak to dig,
and too ashamed to beg."
So the manager devised a plan,
to ensure that when he left his employment,
people would welcome him
into their homes.
He summoned his master's debtors, one by one,
and asked them how much they owed.
One owed a hundred sacks of wheat;
the manager told him
to sit down, take his account, and quickly
change it to eighty.
Another owed a hundred jugs of oil;
the manager told him to take his account,
and change it to fifty.
And the rich man
was actually impressed
to see just how expertly
the dishonest manager
could work
to protect his own interests.
For the children of this age
are more expert
than the children of light
in dealing
with their own generation!
So I tell you,
use your worldly wealth
to make friends for yourselves,
so that
you have
friends who will
welcome you
into their homes
when all your worldly wealth
is gone.
Now only
those who do what is right
with minor things
will be trusted
with greater things.
So do what is right with your worldly wealth,
and you will be entrusted with true riches.
Do what is right for others,
and they will do what is right for you.
You cannot serve two masters,
for you will love one, and hate the other:
you cannot serve
both God
and worldly wealth.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 28 September
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 6.1,4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Leaders of the nation -

all of Israel looks to you!

In Jerusalem you take your rest;

in Samaria you feel secure.

You lounge

on your couches

made of ivory.

You feast

on veal and lamb.

You make music,

and sing your idle songs.

You anoint yourselves with oil,

and drink wine by the bowl.

And you are unmoved

by the destruction

that has come upon

the tribes of the north.

So hear this, you leaders of the nation:

your revelry

will end

when you are

the first

to be taken away into exile!

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 6.6-12a,17-19

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

We brought nothing into the world,

and we take nothing out.

So if we have food, and clothing, let us be

content with that.

For true riches are to be found

in godliness

combined with

contentment.

Those who long to be rich in this world

fall into temptation,

and are trapped

by many foolish and harmful desires

that plunge them

into ruin and destruction.

The love of worldly wealth

is the root

of all manner

of evil;

pulling people

away from the faith,

and repeatedly causing them

pain and distress.

So flee from all this,

and instead

seek righteousness, godliness,

faith, love,

patience, and gentleness.

Work always to be strong in the faith,

holding fast to the eternal life

to which you are called.

As for those of you who are

wealthy

in this present age:

do not be arrogant,

and do not look for security

in the uncertainty of riches;

but find your security in God,

for it is God who richly provides us

with all things

to enjoy.

By generosity, and sharing,

be rich in good works;

and from this foundation, hold fast

to the life

that is truly life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 16.13b-15,19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The Pharisees loved their worldly riches.

They mocked Jesus, when they heard him say

that you cannot serve

both God and worldly wealth.

Jesus said to them, 'You make yourselves

look righteous to others,

but God sees your heart;

and the things that you value, God despises.

And he told them this parable.

'There was a rich man,

dressed in purple, and fine linen,

feasting, and living in luxury, every day.

At his gate lay a poor man, called Lazarus,

hungry, and ready to eat whatever scraps

fell from the rich man's table;

and the dogs would come, and lick his sores.

Now the poor man died, and was carried away

by the angels, to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died, and was buried;

and from his great suffering, in the place of the dead,

he looked up, and saw Abraham, far away,

and Lazarus at his side;

and he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me!

I beg you, send Lazarus, to dip

the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue;

for I am in agony in these flames!"

But Abraham said, "My son, you received good things

in your life, while Lazarus knew only suffering.

And now, he is comforted here, while you suffer.

And a deep chasm lies between there and here,

that no one can cross."

He replied, "Then I beg you, send Lazarus

to warn my five brothers, so that they will not

come to this place of torment."

Abraham said, "They have Moses, and the prophets.

They should listen to them."

He replied, "But father Abraham, they will listen

if someone is sent to them from the dead."

But Abraham said, "If they do not listen

to Moses and the prophets, they will not believe

even if someone rises from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 5 October
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Habakkuk 1.2-4; 2.2-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

I cried out to the Lord,

‘How long, O Lord,
must I cry to you
for help?

All around, there is destruction,
violence, conflict, and distress.

Justice and law have broken down,
and the wicked
overpower the righteous.’

And the Lord answered me, saying,

‘Write this message
in letters so large
that even a runner can see:

“Keep the faith!

For there will be justice at the appointed time.

The arrogant, and the powerful, will fall.

But the righteous, and the faithful, will live!”

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1.1-14

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

From Paul,

by God’s grace, an apostle,
proclaiming the promise of life in Christ Jesus.

To Timothy.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you,
from God our Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy, you are like a son to me,
and I give thanks to God,
as I remember you always, in my prayers,
recalling
the tears that you shed
as we parted,
and longing
for the joy
of seeing you again.

I give thanks to God
for your sincere faith -
the faith
that lived first
in your grandmother Lois,
and your mother Eunice,
and now, I know, lives in you.

Keep the flame
of the gift of God
burning brightly within you -
the gift that you received when I was with you,
when I commissioned you to God’s service.

For God did not give us
a spirit of cowardice,
but a spirit of power, endurance, and love.

So do not be ashamed
to speak
of our salvation in Christ,

And do not be ashamed
of me, a prisoner for Christ.

But be ready to suffer with me,
for the sake of the gospel,
trusting
in the power of God.
For God saved us, and called us
to new life in Christ,
not because of anything we had done,
but by God’s grace -
and for God’s purposes.

This grace of God
was established in Christ Jesus
before the foundation of the world.

It is by this grace of God
that our Saviour Jesus Christ
has broken the power of death
and shown us
the way to eternal life.

It is for this message of God’s grace
that I was appointed apostle, and teacher.

And it is for this message of God’s grace
that I also suffer many trials.

But I have nothing to fear,
for I know
that the one I trust
will protect me
to the very end.

So hold fast
to all that you learned from me.

Hold fast to the faith and love
that you know in Christ Jesus.

And by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us,
treasure the gift that you have received.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 17.5-10

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

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’

And the Lord said to them, ‘If you had faith
the size of a mustard seed,

you could tell this tree
to go and plant itself
in the middle of the sea,
and it would be done.’

And the Lord said to them,
‘When a servant comes in,
from ploughing the field, or tending the sheep,
he does not sit down to eat
with his master,

but at his master’s command,
he prepares and serves
his master’s supper,
before making his own.

And he expects no thanks.

In the same way,
when you have done all
that you are commanded to do,
you should have
the humility of a servant,
and say, “We have only done
what we ought to have done.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 12 October
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 2 Kings 5.1-3, 5, 9-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman

was the highly-respected commander
of the Syrian army, which had
won many victories
under his command.

And yet Naaman, this mighty warrior,
suffered from leprosy.

On one of their raids,
the Syrian army
had taken a young girl captive
from the land of Israel,
and she was now a servant
to Naaman's wife.

This servant girl
told her mistress
that there was a prophet in Samaria
who could cure Naaman of his leprosy.

So, taking with him a letter from the king,
Naaman travelled to Samaria
with his horses and chariots,
taking silver, gold, and fine garments.

When Naaman arrived in Samaria,
at the house of Elisha the prophet,

Elisha sent out a messenger,
to say to Naaman, 'Go and wash, seven times,
in the river Jordan; and your flesh will be restored,
and you will be clean.'

But Naaman became angry, and went away,
saying, 'Surely the prophet could at least have
come out of his house,
called on the name
of the Lord his God,
and waved his hand over the leprosy, to cure it!
We have rivers of our own,
better than any in Israel!'

But his servants said, 'Sir,
if the prophet had commanded you
to do something difficult, you would have done it.
So surely you can do as the prophet commands,
when all he says
is to wash, and be clean.'

So Naaman went,
and washed, seven times,
in the river Jordan,
as Elisha the prophet had instructed.

And Naaman's flesh was restored
like that of a child; and he was clean.

Then Naaman returned, with all his servants,
and stood before Elisha, and said,
'Now I know
that there is no God in all the earth
except in Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 3.11b-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have endured

so many persecutions;

but the Lord has rescued me from all of them.

All those who aim to live a godly life in Christ Jesus

will be persecuted;

and wickedness, and deception,

will increase.

But hold fast

to all that you have learned and believed,

trusting

those who taught you,

and trusting

in the holy scriptures

that you have known

from childhood, which gave you

the wisdom

to be ready for salvation

through faith in Christ Jesus.

For all scripture, inspired by God,

is useful for teaching, and learning,

and for growing in righteousness,

strengthening

and equipping us

for all

that God calls us to do.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 17.11-19

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

On his way to Jerusalem,

Jesus passed through the region

between Galilee and Samaria.

As he entered a village,

he was approached

by ten people

suffering with leprosy.

Keeping their distance,

they called out, 'Jesus, Master,

have mercy on us!'

Jesus said to them, 'Go and present yourselves
to the priests.'

And as they went,

they were made clean.

One of them, seeing that he was healed,

turned back,

praising God with a loud voice.

And he fell at Jesus' feet,

and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, 'Surely ten

were made clean?

Where are the other nine?

Has none returned,

to give glory to God,

except this foreigner?'

And he said to the Samaritan,

'Get up, and go on your way;

your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 19 October
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 32.22-30

A reading from the book of Genesis.

While it was still dark,
 Jacob led
 his two wives, his two maids,
 and his eleven children,
 to the place
 where they could cross
 the river Jabbok.
Jacob sent them across
 ahead of him,
with everything they had;
 until only Jacob remained.
And there,
 someone wrestled with Jacob
 until daybreak.
And still failing
 to overpower Jacob,
the one who was
 wrestling with Jacob
finally struck Jacob
 on the hip,
 putting it out of joint,
and said,
 ‘Let me go,
 for it is nearly daybreak.’
But Jacob said, ‘I will
 not let you go,
 unless
 you bless me.’
The one who had wrestled with Jacob
 asked Jacob
 his name,
and then said,
 ‘You shall
 no longer be called Jacob,
 but Israel,’
 (which means ‘wrestling with God’),
‘for you have wrestled with God,
 and with mortals,
 and you have prevailed.’
And Jacob said,
 ‘Now tell me your name.’
But the one who had wrestled with Jacob
 said, ‘Why is it
 that you ask
 my name?’
So Jacob called the place Peniel,
 (which means ‘the face of God’)
 saying, ‘I have seen God,
 face to face,
 and yet I live.’
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.2-5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Preach the word of God,
 with patience,
 and persistence,
both when it is
 received with joy,
 and when it is not.
Teach and encourage,
 persuade and challenge,
 even argue and debate,
 for there will be times
 when people
 turn away from the truth
 to go chasing after fantasies,
 listening to teachers who will say
 whatever it is
 they want to hear.
Continue then
 all the more
 in the work
 that God has called you to do.
Keep a clear mind
 in every situation;
 endure through every hardship;
 and proclaim the good news!
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.1-8a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

 according to Luke.
Jesus said, ‘In a city,
 there was a judge, who respected
 neither God
 nor the people.
In the same city,
 there was a widow, who kept on
 coming to the judge, saying, “Grant me justice
 against my opponent!”
At first,
 the judge refused.
But eventually,
 the judge said to himself, “I respect
 neither God
 nor the people,
but because this widow
 keeps bothering me,
I will grant her justice,
 before she wears me out.”’
And Jesus said
 to his disciples, ‘Keep on praying,
 and do not lose heart.
For God will surely
 grant justice, and quickly,
to God’s chosen ones, who
 call out to God,
 night and day.’
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 26 October
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Help us, O Lord, for you are
the hope of Israel,
our saviour
in time of trouble.
We know
that we have
rebelled against you.
Our trespasses are many,
and our offences
cry out to you.
But you, O Lord, are amongst us,
and we are
called by your name.
Do not reject us,
or dishonour your glorious throne,
but for the sake of your name,
remember the covenant
you made with us.
We set our hope
on you alone,
O Lord our God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have fought the good fight.
I have completed the course.
I have kept the faith.
And now I am being poured out
like an offering,
and the time for my departure is near.
What lies ahead
is to receive
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will present to me
on that day,
alongside all who have
received the Lord's forgiveness,
and look with joy
for the day
of the Lord's appearing.
Having called me
to proclaim the good news
to all nations,
the Lord has stood by me,
rescued me,
and strengthened me;
and the Lord will surely continue
to protect me from every assault,
and bring me safely
to the heavenly kingdom.
To the Lord
be glory for ever!
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.9-14

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

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were some who had great confidence
in their own righteousness,
and regarded others
with contempt.
Jesus told them
this parable.
'Two men
went up to the temple
to pray.
One was a Pharisee;
the other
was a collector
of the Roman taxes.
The Pharisee
stood confidently,
and said: "O God, I thank you
that I am not like
all the other people -
thieves, liars, and adulterers -
or even that tax collector!
I fast twice a week!
I give a tenth of all my income to the temple!"
But the tax collector
stayed back,
at a distance,
and would not even
look up to heaven,
but, with his hand on his heart,
said, "God, have mercy on me,
a sinner."
I tell you,
it was the tax collector,
not the Pharisee, who
returned home
righteous
in the sight of God.
For those who
place themselves above others
will be brought down.
But those who choose
to be humble
will be lifted up.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 2 November

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday before Advent

All Saints Sunday

First Reading - Isaiah 25.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast

of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice,

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy,

to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters,

we give thanks to God

for your continuing growth

both in faith

and in love for one another.

We gladly tell others

in all the churches

about your faith

that remains steadfast

in the face of so many

hardships and persecutions.

And we always pray for you,

that God will strengthen you

in all your works of faith,

as you seek to fulfil your calling,

and rejoice in all that is good.

And so may the name of our Lord Jesus

be glorified in you,

and may you be glorified in him,

by the grace of God

and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.1-10

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

Jesus was passing through Jericho

on his way to Jerusalem.

Zacchaeus, a wealthy

chief tax-collector,

could not see over the crowds

to see who Jesus was.

So he ran ahead

and climbed into a tree

on the route that Jesus was following.

When Jesus saw him there,

he said, 'Zacchaeus,

come down at once,

for I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus

came down quickly

from the tree,

and welcomed Jesus

into his home.

Those who saw this

began to complain,

saying that Jesus

had gone to be the guest

of someone

completely unworthy.

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus,

'My Lord,

half of all my possessions

I will give to the poor.

And if I have cheated anyone of anything,

I will pay it back

four times over.'

And Jesus said, 'Today,

salvation has come to this house.

For Zacchaeus also

is a child of Abraham.

And the Son of Man came

to seek out

and rescue

the lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 9 November

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday before Advent

Remembrance Sunday

First Reading - Job 19.23-27a

A reading from the book of Job.

Let this be written down, recorded in a book,
and engraved in stone:

'I know that my Redeemer lives;
and the day will come
when my Redeemer
will stand upon the earth.

And I know
that when the suffering
of this present age
is ended,
with my own eyes
I shall
see God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 2.16 - 3.5

A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

God our Father,
and our Lord Jesus Christ,
in their great love for us,
have always given us
courage
and joyful confidence
for the future.

May they continue
to strengthen you
in every good word
that you speak,
and in every good work
that you do.

And finally I ask you,
my brothers and sisters,
to pray for us.

Pray
that the word of the Lord
may continue to spread,
and be glorified everywhere,
just as it is
amongst you.

Pray also
that we may be protected
from any who would do us harm;
for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful.

And we are confident
that as you continue
in all
that we taught you,
the Lord will strengthen you,
and protect you from all harm,
and lead you on
in the love of God,
and in faithfulness to Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.41-48

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

Jesus approached Jerusalem,
surrounded
by the crowds.

And when he saw the city,
he wept, and said,

'O Jerusalem,
if only
you had seen
and understood
the way of peace!

But the day will come
when your enemies
will surround you on every side!

They will crush you
to the ground -
you,
and your children within you!

Not one stone
will be left
upon another;
because you did not recognise
that the day would come
when God
would call you to account.'

When Jesus entered the city,
and entered
the temple courtyard,
he began to drive out
those who were trading there,
saying to them, 'The scripture says
"My house shall be a house of prayer" -
but you have made it
a den of thieves!'

Then, every day,
he was teaching
in the temple.

And the chief priests,
the teachers of the law,
and other
leaders of the people,
were looking
for a way to destroy him.

But they could find nothing
that they could do,
because the people were eager
to hear
his every word.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 16 November
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Sunday before Advent

First Reading - Malachi 4.1-2a

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

The day is coming, says the Lord,
when the arrogant,
and all evildoers,
will be burned up
like stubble.

Neither root nor branch
will remain.

But on those who honour my name,
the dawn will break,
the sun will rise -
the sun of righteousness -
and there will be healing
in its light.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3.7-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

We were not idle
when we were with you.

We did not
accept food from you
without paying for it.

Indeed we worked night and day,
so that we would not
be a burden
to any of you.

We could
have asked you
to support us.

But we preferred
to set an example
for you to follow.

Even while we were with you,
we were making it a rule
that those who will not work
should not eat!

And yet we hear
that some amongst you
are being
both idle
and
disruptive -
not doing any work, and
disrupting
the work of others!

Our instruction to any in that situation -
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ -
is to work quietly,
and earn the bread that you eat.

And for all of you, my brothers and sisters, I say:
do not grow weary
in always
doing good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 21.5-19

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

The disciples
were admiring the temple,
with its fine stone-work,
and its many offerings
and gifts.

Jesus said, 'The day will come
when all of this
will be torn down.
Not one stone
will be left
upon another.'

The disciples asked Jesus, 'When will this happen?
And what will be the sign
that these things
are about to take place?'

Jesus said, 'Do not be misled.

Many will come
claiming
that the time is near,
even claiming
to speak in my name.

Do not follow them.

And when you hear of wars and rebellions,
do not be afraid.

All these things must happen,
but they do not mean
that the end is near.

Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be earthquakes,
famines, and plagues.

There will be
terrifying sights
in the sky.

Even before all this,
they will persecute you.

They will arrest you,
and hand you over
to courts, and prisons,
and to kings, and governors,
because of my name.

And there,
you will be my witnesses.

Do not worry
in advance
about what you will say,
for I will give you words, and a wisdom,
that no one
will be able
to refute, or contradict.

You will be betrayed
by parents, brothers, and friends;
some of you will be put to death.

But even when you are hated by all
because of my name,
you will come to no harm.

And in your endurance,
you will find life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 23 November

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Sunday before Advent

Christ the King

First Reading - 2 Samuel 5.1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The elders of the tribes of Israel
came to David at Hebron,
and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood.
And even while Saul has been king over us,
you have been the one who has led us.
And we know that the Lord has spoken to you,
declaring that you will be
the shepherd and leader of Israel.'
So David made a covenant
with the elders of Israel,
in the presence of the Lord, at Hebron.
And there, the elders
anointed David
to be king over Israel.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.12-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ, and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things, in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
So let us always, joyfully, give thanks
to God the Father, who has
rescued us,
from the power of darkness,
to dwell, forgiven, with the saints, in light,
in the kingdom
of his beloved Son.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 23.33-43

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

When they came to the place
called The Skull,
they crucified Jesus there,
with the criminals,
one on his right, and one on his left.
And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them;
for they do not know
what they are doing.'
And they divided his clothing
between them.
And the people stood by,
watching.
The inscription above him
read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'
The soldiers taunted him,
saying, 'If you are
the King of the Jews,
save yourself!'
And they offered him bitter wine.
The religious leaders also mocked him,
saying, 'He saved others;
let him save himself,
if he is the Messiah,
God's chosen one!'
One of the criminals
crucified alongside him
also mocked him,
saying, 'If you are the Messiah,
save yourself - and us!'
But the other criminal
said to him, 'Have you
no fear of God?
We are being
punished for our crimes,
but this man
has done
no wrong.'
Then he said, 'Jesus,
remember me,
when you
come into your kingdom.'
Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you,
today
you will be with me
in Paradise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.