

Sunday 26 July 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading - 1 Kings 3.5-13

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord appeared

to Solomon

in a dream, by night,

saying, 'Make your request.'

Ask what I should give to you.'

And Solomon

said to the Lord,

'You showed great and steadfast love
to my father David, who served you
faithfully, in righteousness and justice.'

And you have continued

in that great and steadfast love

by giving David a son

to sit on his throne today.

And now, I am that king,

your humble servant,

in place of my father David,

even though I am only a child.

The people of this nation,

your chosen people, O Lord,

are so great in number

that they cannot be counted.

And so my request

is for an understanding heart,

to judge between good and evil,

for without this, none could govern

this your great people.'

It pleased the Lord

that this was Solomon's request.

So the Lord said to Solomon,

'Because you have

not asked

for long life,

or riches,

or the death of your enemies,

but have asked

for an understanding heart,

to govern with justice,

I will grant

what you have asked.

I will give you

a wise

and understanding heart,

like no other

that has gone before,

or will ever

be again.

And I will also

give you

what you have

not asked:

riches and honour, all your life,

such that no other king

can compare.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.18-26

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Our present sufferings

are not worth comparing
to the glory
that is to come.

The whole creation

is waiting, with eager longing,
to be freed

from the slavery
of death and decay,

and to enter

the glorious freedom
of the children of God.

The whole creation

is groaning, as if in labour pains.

And even we,

with the spirit of life within us,
groan inwardly,

as we await

the completion of our adoption
into the full freedom

of the children of God.

We do not yet

see it completed,
but we wait for it

with patience, confidence, and trust.

And the spirit helps us

in our present weakness;

for we do not know

how to pray as we ought,
but the spirit prays within us,

in sighs too deep for words.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 13.31-33, 44-46

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said,

'The kingdom of heaven

is like a mustard seed

that someone plants in a field.

It is the smallest of all seeds,

but when it grows, it becomes a great tree,

and the birds of the air

come and nest in its branches.

Or the kingdom of heaven

is like a spoonful of yeast,

that a woman takes,

and mixes into an entire sack of flour,

so that every part of the dough will rise.

Or the kingdom of heaven

is like treasure, buried in a field,

which someone discovers;

and they sell

all that they have, to buy the field.

Or the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant,

in search of fine pearls.

Finding one pearl of great value,

to secure it, they sell

all that they have.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.