

Sunday 22 August 2027

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading - Joshua 24.1a, 14-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel,
with their elders, leaders, judges, and officers,
and addressed them, saying:

'Turn away from the gods
that your ancestors served,
and honour the Lord your God
with all your heart;
for it is the Lord your God who has
brought you to this place,
and to this day.'

And if you are
unwilling
to serve the Lord your God,
choose this day
the gods you will serve,
whether the gods of your ancestors,
or the gods of those
in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord!'

And the people answered,
'Far be it from us
that we should forsake the Lord our God
to serve other gods;
for it is the Lord our God who brought us,
and our ancestors,
out of the house of slavery in the land of Egypt.'

It is the Lord our God who gave many
great signs
in our sight,
protected us along the way,
and brought us to this land.

Therefore we also
will serve the Lord,
for the Lord
is our God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 6.10-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Be strong
in the power of the Lord.

Put on
the whole armour of God,
to protect you
from all the tricks of the devil.

For we struggle
not against flesh and blood,
but against
all the powers of darkness,
in this world,
and the world beyond.

Therefore, put on
the whole armour of God,
so that you may be able to stand firm
against every assault of the devil.

Fasten the belt of truth

around your waist.

Put on the helmet of salvation,
and the breast-plate of righteousness,
and on your feet, the gospel of peace.

Take up the shield of faith,
to protect you
from the flaming arrows
of the evil one.

And the word of God
will be your sword.

At all times, pray in the Spirit,
making all your requests
known to God.

Stay alert, and persevere
in prayer
for all the believers.

And pray also for me,
that whenever I speak,
I may be given the words
to proclaim, with confidence,
the gospel
for which I remain
an ambassador in chains.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.58a,c,60-69

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

Jesus said, 'I am the true and living bread
that comes down from heaven.
All who eat this bread
will live for ever.'

Many of the disciples said
that this teaching
was difficult to understand.

Jesus said, 'Some of you will see
the Son of Man ascending, back up, into heaven.'

The spirit gives life;
the flesh counts for nothing;
and the words that I have spoken to you
are spirit, and life.

The call to follow me
is a gift from the Father;
and yet, still, amongst you,
there are some who do not believe.'

For Jesus knew,
from the beginning, who did not believe;
and he knew who would betray him.

Many of the disciples
now turned away,
and no longer went about with him.

Jesus asked the twelve
whether they also
would now turn away.

Simon Peter said, 'Lord,
there is no other
that we could follow.'

You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe, and to know,
that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.