

SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST 2026
12th after Trinity

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things
of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.



1st Reading - Isaiah 51.1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from
which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which
you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to
Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called
him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the
Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste
places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her
desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness
will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of
song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me,
my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my
justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my
deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my
arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the
heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the
heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out
like a garment, and those who live on it will die like
gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my
deliverance will never be ended.

Psalms - Psalm 138



I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
with my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
I will bow down towards your holy temple
and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word above all things.
In the day that I called to you, you answered me;
you put new strength in my soul. **℟**
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them from afar. **℟**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you will preserve me;
you will stretch forth your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand will save me.
The Lord shall make good his purpose for me;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work of your hands. **℟**

2nd Reading - Romans 12.1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the
mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your
spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God - what
is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace
given to me I say to everyone among you not to think
of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to
think with sober judgement, each according to the
measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one
body we have many members, and not all the members
have the same function, so we, who are many, are one
body in Christ, and individually we are members one
of another. We have gifts that differ according to the
grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in
cheerfulness.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 16.13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea
Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people
say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say
John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them,
'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter
answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living
God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you,
Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not
revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I
tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my
church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against
it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be
loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the
disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

