

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
19th July 2026

Sentence: Psalm 86.15

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Collect:

Saving God,
in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts
and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 44.6-8

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86.11-17

¹¹ Show me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth:
let my heart delight to fear your name.

¹² I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart:
and I will glorify your name for ever.

¹³ For great is your abiding love toward me:
and you have delivered my life
from the lowest depths of the grave.

¹⁴ The insolent, O God, have risen against me:
a ruthless band seek my life,
they have not set God before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a God gracious and compassionate:
slow to anger, full of goodness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be merciful,
give your strength to your servant:
and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me some token of your goodness:
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,
because you, Lord, are my helper and my comforter.

Second Reading: Romans 8.12-25

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 11.25

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13.24-43

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” ²⁸ He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” ²⁹ But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’ ³¹ He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;

³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’ ³³ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’ ³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’

³⁷ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.