

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
16th August 2026

Sentence: Isaiah 56.1

Thus says the Lord, ‘Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.’

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace that we may always thankfully receive
the benefits of his sacrifice,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 56.1, 6-8

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

¹ Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant — ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

¹ Let God be gracious to us and bless us:
and make his face shine upon us,

² That your ways may be known on earth:
your liberating power among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God:
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing:
for you judge the peoples with integrity,
and govern the nations upon earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God:
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ Then the earth will yield its fruitfulness:
and God, our God, will bless us.

⁷ God shall bless us:
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Second Reading: Romans 11.13-36

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry ¹⁴ in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not vaunt yourselves over the branches. If you do vaunt yourselves, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ You will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity towards those who have fallen, but God's kindness towards you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree. ²⁵ So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, 'Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.' ²⁷ 'And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.' ²⁸ As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. ³³ O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ 'For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?'

³⁵ 'Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?' ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4.23

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the Kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 15.21-28

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.