

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – Year A
25th October 2026

Sentence: Matthew 22.37–40

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Collect:

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Leviticus 19.1-2; 19.15-18

A reading from the book Leviticus

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed are they
who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:
nor followed the way of sinners,
nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

² But their delight is in the law of the Lord:
and on that law will they ponder day and night.

³ They are like trees planted beside streams of water:
that yield their fruit in due season.

⁴ Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

⁵ As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

⁶ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up
at the judgement:
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁷ For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2.1-13

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. ⁹ You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God

also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers.

¹¹ As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children,

¹² urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. ¹³ We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14.23

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

All who love me will keep my words,

And my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22.34-46

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

³⁶ 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' ³⁷ He said to him,

“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second

is like it: “‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’” ⁴⁰ On these two

commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’ ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees

were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² ‘What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?’ They said to him, ‘The son of David.’ ⁴³ He said to them, ‘How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”?’ ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?’

⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.