

COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 4 June 2023 – TRINITY SUNDAY

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through 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.

Psalm 8

- 1 O Lord our governor, ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ♦
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ♦
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ♦
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What is man, that you should be mindful of him; ♦
the son of man, that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him little lower than the angels ♦
and crown him with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands ♦
and put all things under his feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen, ♦
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ♦
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor, ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, verses 11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come,
the Almighty.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16 to 20

Glory to you, O Lord

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection from Peter

One thing is certain: from the moment of Jesus' birth our understanding of God changed for ever. In the ancient world God was very real, but utterly unlike us – unpredictable, generous, demanding, sometimes incomprehensible, but always there. This was true in the experience of the people of Israel even as they grew in awareness of God's love for creation; it was also true of the ancient Greeks and the Romans. But with the birth of Jesus it was no longer possible to think of God as completely different. In Jesus we see God and, as Michael Ramsey once put it, 'in God there is no unChristlikeness'. From now on we have to hold together the immense unknowability of God together with the God revealed as our brother in the flesh. And the feast of the Trinity is our attempt to reset the record. As we celebrate the revelation of God as Father, Son and Spirit we are committing ourselves to this mind-blowing truth. God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. God is more remote, more unknowable, more different than anything else in all creation. God understands, loves and cares for us and every particle of creation with passion and purpose. And, when everything else has collapsed and disappeared, God will still be God!