



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 29 September 2024 - TRINITY 18**

**COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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. Amen.

**Psalm 19.7-14**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; ♦  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the simple.  
8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; ♦  
the commandment of the Lord is pure  
and gives light to the eyes.  
9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; ♦  
the judgements of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.  
10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, ♦  
sweeter also than honey,  
dripping from the honeycomb.  
11 By them also is your servant taught ♦  
and in keeping them there is great reward.  
12 Who can tell how often they offend ♦  
O cleanse me from my secret faults!  
13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins  
lest they get dominion over me; ♦  
so shall I be undefiled,  
and innocent of great offence.  
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, ♦  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## **A reading from the book of Numbers, Chapter 11, verses 4-6, 10-16, 24-29.**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.'

So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.'

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:***

The second reading is from Mark, chapter 9, verses 38-50.

***and then at the end:***

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

***For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):***

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark, Chapter 9, verses 38-50.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

***And then at the end:***

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Mark 9.38-50**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

## A Reflection from Hannah...

Something a bit different this week... in our joint service on Sunday we will be spending time getting to know the latest vision document that's been put together by the Diocese of Lichfield. It sets out targets and priorities for the church over the coming years. We will bring it to prayer, and we will reflect on our call in every generation to faithfully commend the Gospel and be people of hope. It's easy to get cynical, and it's easy to complain- just like the characters in both of our readings this week, where emotions are clearly running high! But as followers of Christ in a world beset with horrors, we have confidence in light that no darkness can extinguish- God who is able to do more than we can possibly imagine, and who (astonishingly) invites us to join in.



Shaping  
for Mission  
Strategic  
Framework  
2024 -2030

