



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION  
SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2024 - TRINITY 20**

**COLLECT**

God, the giver of life,  
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:  
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ  
and make us eager to do your will,  
that we may share with the whole creation  
the joys of eternal life;  
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 90.12-17**

- 12 So teach us to number our days ♦  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- 13 Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay? ♦  
Have compassion on your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning, ♦  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us, ♦  
and for the years in which we have seen adversity.
- 16 Show your servants your works, ♦  
and let your glory be over their children.
- 17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; ♦  
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

## A reading from the book of Amos, Chapter 5, verses 6-7 and 10-15.

### Amos 5.6-7

Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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 10, verses 17-31.

**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 10, verses 17-31.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

**And then at the end:**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Mark 10.17-31

The Rich Man

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

### *A Reflection from Hannah...*

Last week around many of our churches we celebrated Harvest. The readings then encouraged us to consider the important of depending on God for all things, part of which is recognising the difference between what we want and what we need. This week's Gospel reading has some similarities with that theme.

The 'rich young man', as he is known, is a 'good' man save for his money. He keeps all the commandments, and clearly lives as a model member of the Hebrew community. But the one thing he cannot do, is the one thing Jesus, in love, mentions. The man hoards his wealth, and has plenty of it. The idea of giving it away is just too much- so much so that he is thrown into mourning for a life he cannot muster and wanders away, dejected.

At first, it seems as though this man is outside of God's love and God's redemption- he certainly responds that way, and sadly has left the scene before Christ explains his conversation. Had the rich young man hung around a bit longer, he would have heard the Gospel! What Jesus goes on to say is that this man's sin is no barrier to God's love. God makes possible what we cannot do alone. Through Christ, we can all access the good things of love (described as eternal life), in spite of our own shortcomings. All of us are, in different ways, caveated people- in other words, like the rich young man, we contain goodness, but we also stray from God's ways. It may be that we love our stuff and money too much, but there may be other things that alienate us from God. We're all imperfect and unable, in our own strength and on our own merits, to be a camel and go through the eye of the needle.

But the good news is that, as the passage goes on to say, for God all things are possible. The wonder of this is that there is nothing we can do to 'earn' God's love or God's favour- God chooses, in Christ, to give us the gift of fullness of life, no matter who we are. On one level, that's a huge relief to us- we know the murky depths of our own souls, and how hard we find it to abandon unhelpful ways. Or put another way, how hard we find it not to sin. More than that though, it puts everyone in the same position- that can be a harder truth to embrace, but it is the call of the Gospel. Those who have wronged us or hurt us are also those whom God loves, and for whom Christ died. As the phrase goes- the ground at the foot of the cross is level- or, as our reading puts it, the first will be last and the last will be first. There are no boundaries to God's love.

Does that mean we can do what we like though?! There's a danger in taking little bits of Jesus' teaching out of context! Though our merits or our sins neither save nor condemn us, it's good to remember last week's injunction- to seek the kingdom of God before all things. If we choose to do that, then sin is increasingly shown for what it is, and love gets bigger- the good ways grow.