



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 6 JULY 2025 – Trinity 3

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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 66

1 Be joyful in God, all the earth; ♦
sing the glory of his name;
sing the glory of his praise.
2 Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! ♦
Because of your great strength
your enemies shall bow before you.
3 'All the earth shall worship you, ♦
sing to you, sing praise to your name.'
4 Come now and behold the works of God, ♦
how wonderful he is in his dealings with humankind.
5 He turned the sea into dry land;
the river they passed through on foot; ♦
there we rejoiced in him.
6 In his might he rules for ever;
his eyes keep watch over the nations; ♦
let no rebel rise up against him.
7 Bless our God, O you peoples; ♦
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8 Who holds our souls in life ♦
and suffers not our feet to slip.

A reading from the letter to the Galatians, chapter 6, verses 1-16.

Galatians 6.1-16

Bear One Another's Burdens

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Final Admonitions and Benediction

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

This is 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 Luke, chapter 10, verses 1-11 and 16-20.

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, for your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke, chapter 10, verses 1-11 and 16-20.

Glory to you, O Lord

And then at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Luke 10. 1-11, 16-20

The Mission of the Seventy

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The Return of the Seventy

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

A Reflection from Hannah

This week we had solar panels and batteries installed. Don't worry, the diocese hasn't suddenly become very rich! They were funded by a grant to retrofit vicarages with greener energy. The pull-up bar in our garage was moved (much to the disgruntlement of two members of our household, and the utter indifference of the rest), and now four large white units hang on the wall. In this sunny weather, all of them were full within 24 hours, and it has of course been great fun watching the figures change and seeing what happens when we do various things... use the washing machine, have a shower, boil the kettle...

It turns out though, that not all power has the same effect. I have had the same alarm clock since university. I remember Radio 4 waking me up each morning in Oxford; I remember listening (and thinking I must have misheard) to news of the Boxing Day Tsunami whilst sitting up in bed with a newborn baby. It's an old clock, and it's been relied upon for almost three decades. However, since the solar panels got started, it has been gaining twelve minutes per day! So it has become more (too?) powerful! Getting me up 12 minutes early on day one was not the most welcome start to a Monday morning...

Both of our readings this week consider the question of what... or who... fuels us. Do we rely upon our own strength to live out our principles? Are our motives really about our own pride, reputation, righteousness? Because the source matters. How we account our actions matters. St Paul encourages us to 'sow in the Spirit', rather than the 'flesh'. In other words, to be powered by the Holy Spirit through prayer and a commitment to doing the right thing for the right motive- because it is an expression of *God's* love working through us, not our own ideas about 'right' living. A similar note of caution was sounded in our Gospel reading last week- as Peter named Jesus as the Messiah- 'For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven'. Good things come from God. And in the two-by-two missionary training exercise that Jesus sends seventy apprentices on in this week's Gospel reading, Jesus tells them to rejoice not because of their apparent 'power' but because their home is in heaven- they are living in God's strength.

As for them, so for us. As a community of believers around the Loop, may we too remember to stay close to God in prayer, and to be encouraged by one another. That *community* of faith is also a theme in our readings. To live life together is part of our call. I was reminded of that this week as Dave and I have ministered in a two-by-two way- and it's been a joy. So, in all that say, think and do, may we be open to the Holy Spirit giving us the fuel that we need to be people of peace, of gentleness, of love; whose words and actions point to the source of it all.