



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 10 AUGUST 2025 – Trinity 8**

**COLLECT**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern  
both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws  
and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Psalm 33.12-22**

- 12 Happy the nation whose God is the Lord ♦  
and the people he has chosen for his own.
- 13 The Lord looks down from heaven ♦  
and beholds all the children of earth.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze ♦  
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them ♦  
and understands all their works.
- 16 No king is saved by the might of his host; ♦  
no warrior delivered by his great strength.
- 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; ♦  
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, ♦  
on those who wait in hope for his steadfast love,
- 19 To deliver their soul from death ♦  
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits longingly for the Lord; ♦  
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him; ♦  
in his holy name have we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, ♦  
as we have set our hope on you.

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 1-3 and 8-16.**

## **Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 12, verses 32-40.

***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.**

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. I know them, and they follow me.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke, chapter 12, verses 32-40.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Luke 12.32-40

Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

## ***A Reflection from Peter***

“Do not be afraid, little flock...” It’s all very well saying something like this – we do it ourselves often enough. But if it is to be of any help, we have to have some confidence that it means something. If, when that enormous earthquake happened the other week, and all those tsunamis were threatening, you found yourself in an exposed spot with giant waves rushing towards you, what then? You certainly wouldn’t believe someone who said, “Don’t be afraid...”

Jesus goes on and says, “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit...” Now this seems even less help! But this is an image and we are encouraged to look behind the words. What Jesus has in mind is the way that a good life is built on sensible practices and habits. We do what we can to be ready for what lies ahead – whatever it may be. Such preparation is necessary, but it is not sufficient to deal with unexpected catastrophe. And it is the unexpected that Jesus points to – ‘for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

No, to get further we need to listen to the writer of the letter to Hebrews. The author is speaking of that unique business of faith. The passage doesn’t tell us much about what faith is, but it tells us a lot about what faith **does**. Being a person of faith makes a real difference. The kind of difference varies from person to person. It is a way of living that is rooted in confidence in God – and that confidence is built on experience of God’s steadfastness. Jesus says don’t be afraid because it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. The letter to the Hebrews echoes that, “God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.”