

# Sunday 28st September

Fifthteenth Sunday after Trinity

#### **Today's Collect**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 forever.

#### **Today's Post Communion**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Next Week Services: Sunday 28th September

8:30am	Rous Lench	<b>Holy Communion</b>
11:00am	Harvington	Harvest Festival
11:00am	Church Lench	<b>Holy Communion</b>
6:00pm	Harvington	<b>Holy Communion</b>

#### **Harvest Suppers**

- o 5th Oct Harvington Bring and Share after service
- o **5**<sup>th</sup> **Oct** Church Lench 2 course Lunch after Harvest Holy communion. Tickets from PCC or Social committee members.
- o **10th Oct -** Abbots Morton Roast Pork Harvest Supper in Village Hall. Tickets from Pippa or Tina.
- 11th Oct Rous Lench Harvest Supper. Tickets from Fran or memeber of PCC.

#### **Prayer of Intersession**

For those who wait at the gate in poverty, seeking essentials from foodbanks, unable to afford to turn their heating on. We pray for all in poverty and that those who have will see and respond to the needs of those who have not. We especially ask that you bless those who are planning winter warmth projects to provide support for those struggling because of spiralling fuel costs.

Loving God, we pray for those who wait at the gate.

For those who wait at the gate because they have nowhere else to wait: for those whose homes have been destroyed by flood; for those whose home has been bombed; for those who cannot afford a home. We pray for all who are homeless. We commend to you those charities that seek to provide aid to those in Ukraine and the Middle East, especially thinking of Gaza. We pray for those who welcome refugees, for those who provide emergency shelter.

Loving God, we pray for those who wait at the gate.

For those who wait at the gate in sadness and grief, for those whose lives have been torn apart by the death of a loved one, for those who struggle to cope, for those who can't find a way to fit in. We pray for those who feel that life is too much, and the way is too hard. May they find your love in times of darkness.

Loving God, we pray for those who wait at the gate.

For those who have been rejected, for those who fear they will be turned away, for those who don't know how to access your strength and love. We pray that our churches may be inviting places of welcome where no-one is turned away and all are helped to experience the grace and peace that you offer. As we enter the gate of our homes, our churches, our lives, give us eyes to see those in need and hearts to respond in the name of our Saviour Jesus. **Amen.** 

### This Week's First Reading: Jeremiah 32.1-3a 6-15

<sup>1</sup>The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup> The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.<sup>3</sup> Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, "Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it.

<sup>6</sup> Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me:<sup>7</sup> Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.' <sup>8</sup> "Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.' "I knew that this was the word of the LORD; so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. I I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy—

12 and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

<sup>13</sup> "In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: <sup>14</sup> 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. <sup>15</sup> For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.

#### This Week's Psalm: Psalm 91.1-6, 14-end.

- 1. Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3. Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- 5. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6. nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- 14. "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- 15. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

## This Week's Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6.6-19.

<sup>6</sup> There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. <sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith.

Continuing: 1 Timothy 6.6-19.

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

## This Week's Gospel Reading: Luke 16.19-end.

<sup>19</sup> 'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames."

Continuing: Luke 16.19-end.

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." <sup>27</sup> He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." <sup>30</sup> He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." <sup>31</sup> He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

### Next Week's First Reading: Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4,

- 1. <sup>1</sup> The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. <sup>2</sup> O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? <sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. <sup>4</sup> So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgement comes forth perverted.
- 2. <sup>1</sup> will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he \* will answer concerning my complaint. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. <sup>3</sup> For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. <sup>4</sup> Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.\*

Next Week's Psalm: Psalm 37.1-9,

- 1. Do not vie with the wicked : or envy those that do wrong;
- 2. For they will soon wither like the grass : and fade away like the green leaf.
- 3. Trust in the Lord and do good : and you shall dwell in the land and feed in safe pastures.
- 4. Let the Lord be your delight: and he will grant you your heart's desire.
- 5. Commit your way to the Lord: trust him, and he will act.
- 6. He will make your righteousness shine as clear as the light : and your innocence as the noonday.
- 7. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him: do not be vexed when a man prospers, when he puts his evil purposes to work.
- 8. Let go of anger and abandon wrath: let not envy move you to do evil.
- 9. For the wicked shall be cut down: but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.

## Next Week's Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1.1-14,

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not

give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading:** *Luke 17.5-10*

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' <sup>6</sup> The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you. <sup>7</sup> 'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? <sup>8</sup> Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? <sup>9</sup> Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!" '