

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4th October 2020

THE COLLECT

O Lord, since without you we cannot please you: let the work of your mercy in all things guide our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25.1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade
from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a
winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of
clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will
make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured
wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-
matured wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the
tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take
away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for
him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have
waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 23

**Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
 - 2 He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.**
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
 - 4 Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.

**Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.**

- 5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble
me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall
follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.

**Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4.1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and
long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in
the Lord in this way, my beloved.
²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of
the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask
you also, my loyal companion, help these
women, for they have struggled beside me
in the work of the gospel, together with
Clement and the rest of my co-workers,
whose names are in the book of life.
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to
everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not
worry about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses
all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally,
beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honourable, whatever is just, whatever is
pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing
the things that you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me, and
the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22.1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to the chief
priests and Pharisees in parables, saying:
²The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a wedding
banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to
call those who had been invited to the
wedding banquet, but they would not
come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying,
“Tell those who have been invited: Look, I
have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my
fat calves have been slaughtered, and
everything is ready; come to the wedding
banquet.” ⁵But they made light of it and
went away, one to his farm, another to his
business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves,
maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷The
king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned
their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, “The
wedding is ready, but those invited were
not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main
streets, and invite everyone you find to
the wedding banquet.” ¹⁰Those slaves went
out into the streets and gathered all whom
they found, both good and bad; so the
wedding hall was filled with guests.
¹¹But when the king came in to see the
guests, he noticed a man there who was
not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said
to him, “Friend, how did you get in here
without a wedding robe?” And he was
speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the
attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and
throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.” ¹⁴For many are called, but few are
chosen.’