

## The 7th Sunday after Trinity

### *The Collect for the 7th Sunday after Trinity:*

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
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**

### *The Old Testament lesson is written in the second book of the prophet Samuel:*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

### *The word of the Lord.*

(2 Samuel 7.1–14a)

---

### *The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:*

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the

sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(Mark 6.30–34,53–56)

---

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord.*

In the passages in today's Gospel reading from St Mark we hear how apostles have returned from their tasks of spreading the Good News; teaching, curing the sick and setting people free. They're clearly tired but excited, wanting to tell Jesus about everything they had experienced. We are told in various places in the Bible that; 'the labourer is worthy of their wages,' and Jesus knows what they deserve and need. He tells them.; "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." He knows that they need rest and refreshment after their travels and travails. However, Jesus' plans, like so many plans, do not go exactly as he had intended. Instead of a quiet secluded shore they are met with crowds as soon as their boat lands. Our plans often get interrupted, indeed there have been almost nothing but changes and interruptions to our plans over the last eighteen months or so. It is often tempting to try work even harder to make things happen, or to just get frustrated and angry and maybe pray hard that God will change things to be as we want. Neither are likely to work too well, and we can see this reflected in Jesus' actions in today's Gospel. Jesus doesn't turn the boat around or ignore the crowd on the shore. He doesn't complain or and fault. He doesn't implore his Father to change the situation, rather he accepts the situation and makes himself open to it. Jesus knows that situations are rarely either or and that God's spirit was present and working in both possibilities. Jesus knows that the spirit of God "*blows where it chooses*" (Jn 3:8). The everyday; whether as planned or interrupted, surprising or mundane, the 'everyday' is where we meet God in action. As the Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung shrewdly noted; "*Whether called or uncalled, God is present.*" This does not mean that we can stop planning, working or caring, far from it! We need to be ready to recognise and be present to God in the planned or unexpected, the desired or unwelcome. Crowds may come and interrupt us, but we are not "*like sheep without a shepherd*", we know the voice of our Lord and we have him as a pattern and example. Time and time again Jesus is interrupted and he uses those moments to tap into the working and flow of the Holy Spirit. Recently we heard how, on the way to heal Jairus' daughter, the hem of Jesus' garment in a crowd healed and restored the woman with the haemorrhage. That one encounter changed her infinitely for the better. What opportunities are presented in the changes and in the interruptions to our plans? At the healing of the haemorrhaging women, Peter declares the seeming impossibility of singling out the one who needed Jesus' healing touch in such a crowd; "*... the crowds surround you and press in on you.*" (Lk 8.45) What 'hem of the cloak' moments what 'fringe of the garment' encounters might we facilitate if we go openly with the flow of interruptions and changes that are placed before us by the God of infinite possibilities? May God bless you all. **Amen.**

---

*Additional prayer for the 7th Sunday after Trinity:*

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory

and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

-----

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and amongst all those who you love and hold in your hearts in prayer, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Please pray for all those ordained to serve in God's Church this weekend.

**With every blessing for the coming week. Fr. Peter**

-----

**CHRIST CHURCH, READING LATEST – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:**

**IF YOU, OR ANYONE YOU HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH, HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID 19  
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 YOURSELF –  
YOU MUST NOT ATTEND CHURCH AND FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ISOLATION AND TESTING RULES.**

**OUR SUNDAY EUCHARIST IS AT 10AM EACH WEEK AND EVENSONG IS AT 6PM SUNDAY.**

**PLEASE SEE NEWSHEET FOR DATES**

**(THERE IS CURRENTLY NO SUNDAY 8AM OR TUESDAY 10AM SERVICE)**

**EXTRA CLEANING AND HYGIENE MEASURES, SOME SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TRACK AND TRACE  
LISTS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES THE USE OF FACE-COVERINGS WHILE IN  
CHURCH IS ENCOURAGED AND EXPECTED.**

**WHILE INFECTION RATES REMAIN HIGH – COMMUNION WILL CONTINUE UNDER ONE KIND  
ONLY (CONSECRATED BREAD) AS PERMITTED UNDER C OF E RULINGS.**

**WEATHER PERMITTING COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE GARDEN AFTER THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST.**

**Please follow all guidance as indicated in church.**

**PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR FORTHCOMING COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ANY CHANGES**

**Please do share this information with those who may have not received it.**

-----

**If you have any queries regarding this please email Fr. Peter: [fr.peterday@virginmedia.com](mailto:fr.peterday@virginmedia.com) or  
telephone: 07702043857**