

**Sunday 3rd June 2018: THE FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY**  
**Covenant Sunday**

**Collect**

God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.

**Amen.**

*A reading from the Book Deuteronomy*

Deuteronomy 5. 12-15

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 81(vv1-10)**

- 1 Sing ye merrily unto God our strength:  
raise a cheerful shout unto the God of Jacob.
- 2 Take the psaltery, bring hither the timbrel:  
the merry harp with the lute.
- 3 Blow the trumpet in the new moon:  
and at the full moon on our solemn feast-day.
- 4 For this was made a statute for Israel:  
and a law of the God of Jacob.
- 5 This he laid upon Joseph for a testimony:  
when he came out of the land of Egypt.
- 6 'I eased his shoulder from the burden:  
and his hands were set free from bearing the load.
- 7 'Thou calledst upon me in trouble, and I delivered thee:  
I answered thee in the thunder-cloud, but put thee to the test at the waters  
of Meribah.
- 8 'Hear O my people, and I will admonish thee:  
O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me,
- 9 'There shall no strange god be in thee:  
neither shalt thou worship any other god.
- 10 'I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt:  
open thy mouth wide and I shall fill it.'

*A reading from the Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians*      2 Corinthians 4. 5-12

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.*      Mark 2.23 – 3.6

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 10th June 2018: THE SECOND SUNDAY after TRINITY

### Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### *A reading from the Book of Genesis*

Genesis 3. 8-15

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 130

1 Out of the deep have I called unto thee O Lord:

Lord hearken unto my voice.

2 O let thine ears consider well:

the voice of my supplications.

3 If thou Lord shouldest mark what is done amiss:

O Lord who could abide it?

4 But there is mercy with thee:

that so thou mayest be feared.

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait for him:

and in his word is my trust.

6 My soul doth wait for the Lord:

more than watchmen for the morning, yea more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:

and with him is plenteous redemption,

8 And he shall redeem Israel:

from the multitude of his sins.

*A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians* 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture - 'I believed, and so I spoke' - we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.*

Mark 3. 20-35

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' - for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018: THE THIRD SUNDAY after TRINITY

### 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: Grant 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 **Amen**.

### *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*

Ezekiel 17. 22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 92(vv1-8)

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord:  
and to sing praises unto thy name O Most Highest,
- 2 To tell of thy loving-kindness early in the morning:  
and of thy faithful ness in the night season,
- 3 Upon an instrument of ten strings and upon the lute:  
with the sound of melody upon the harp.
- 4 For thou Lord hast made me glad through thy works:  
and I will shout for joy because of thy handy work.
- 5 O Lord how glorious are thy works:  
thy thoughts are very deep.
- 6 The dull of heart doth not consider this:  
and the fool doth not understand it,
- 7 That, though the ungodly are green as the grass:  
and all the workers of wickedness do flourish,
- 8 Yet shall they be destroyed for ever:  
but thou Lord art the Most Highest for evermore.

### *A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians*

2 Corinthians 5. 6-10, [11-13,] 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must

appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.*

Mark 4. 26-34

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018: THE NATIVITY of JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Collect

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching, and after his example constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*

Isaiah 40. 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 85(vv5-12)**

5 Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever:

and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?

6 Wilt thou not give us life again:

that thy people may rejoice in thee?

7 Shew us thy mercy O Lord:

and grant us thy salvation.

8 I will hearken what the Lord God win say:

for he shall speak peace unto his people and to his servants,  
even unto the upright in heart.

9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him:

that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth are met together:

righteousness and peace have embraced each other.

11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
12 Yea the Lord shall give prosperity:  
and our land shall yield her increase.

***A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians***

Galatians 3. 23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

***Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke.***

Luke 1. 57-66, 80

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**