

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Proper 23A)

**Entrance Hymn:** see separate sheet

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you Lord laid bare our guilt, who could endure it? But you are forgiving, God of Israel.

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

O 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. For 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.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For 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, the 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.

On 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.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he 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. It 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.

*This is the word of the Lord: Thanks be to God*

### PSALM

Psalms 23

**RESPONSE:** *In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever*

1. The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4: 1-9

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, 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.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, 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. Keep 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.

*This is the word of the Lord: Thanks be to God*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14

*Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to St. Matthew: Glory to you O Lord*

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again 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." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then 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." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

*This is the Gospel of The Lord: Praise to you O Christ.*

**Offertory Hymn:** see separate sheet

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord accept the prayers and gifts we offer in faith and love. May this eucharist bring us to your glory. **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn:** see separate sheet

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed,

here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen.**

**Final Hymn:** see separate sheet

11 October  
(Trinity 18)

## Proper 23

*Sunday between 9 and 15 October inclusive*

YEAR A

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
for you have called us  
to know you and to love you.  
You invite us to experience the joy  
of coming into your presence  
and to delight in your grace.

Lord, we come  
depending on your grace and goodness.  
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Good and gracious God,  
may our lives show the joy of knowing you and your love.  
Let preachers and teachers encourage all who hear them  
to come to you in love.  
Bless all who seek to extend our lives  
by a vision of your grace and goodness.  
We pray today for all religious writers and broadcasters.

Silence

Lord of life and love,  
**grant us the joy of your kingdom.**

Good and gracious God,  
as we go about our daily work  
may we show our joy in your presence.  
We ask your blessing upon all who encourage us  
to relax, to be still and to be attentive.  
We pray for artists and musicians,  
for craftspeople and gardeners,  
for all who beautify our world.  
We remember all who live in deprived and derelict areas  
and pray especially for the world poor.

Silence

Lord of life and love,  
**grant us the joy of your kingdom.**

Good and gracious God,  
we thank you for the love and attention  
we have received through our homes and dear ones.  
We ask your blessing upon our families and friends  
and the communities in which we live and work.  
We remember all who strive to improve our environment.  
We pray for all who are homeless  
and those who live on the streets  
of our towns and cities.

Silence

Lord of life and love,  
**grant us the joy of your kingdom.**

Good and gracious God,  
we thank you for our well-being.  
We ask your blessing upon all who are sad or depressed  
and all whose lives are darkened with troubles.

We remember all who are ill  
and their loved ones as they care for them.  
We pray for those who work in hospitals  
and all who care for people in trouble.

Silence

Lord of life and love,  
**grant us the joy of your kingdom.**

Good and gracious God,  
you invite us all into your presence,  
and to life eternal.  
May we not lose sight of the eternal  
through the clamour and call of the world.  
We ask your blessing upon our loved ones departed.  
May they rejoice with the saints in the fullness of eternal life.

Silence

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**