

**23 August 2015**

## **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than we  
to pray  
and to give more than either we desire or  
deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of your  
mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our  
conscience is afraid  
and giving us those good things  
which we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation  
of 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.

### **First Reading**

*Ephesians 6.10-20*

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength  
of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of  
God, so that you may be able to stand  
against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our  
struggle is not against enemies of blood and  
flesh, but against the rulers, against the  
authorities, against the cosmic powers of  
this present darkness, against the spiritual  
forces of evil in the heavenly places.  
<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armour of  
God, so that you may be able to withstand  
on that evil day, and having done  
everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore,  
and fasten the belt of truth around your  
waist, and put on the breastplate of  
righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put  
on whatever will make you ready to  
proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of  
these, take the shield of faith, with which  
you will be able to quench all the flaming  
arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of  
salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every  
prayer and supplication. To that end keep  
alert and always persevere in supplication  
for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that

when I speak, a message may be given to  
me to make known with boldness the  
mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an  
ambassador in chains. Pray that I may  
declare it boldly, as I must speak. (NRSV)

### **Gospel**

*John 6.56-69*

Jesus said to the crowd: <sup>56</sup>‘Those who eat  
my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,  
and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent  
me, and I live because of the Father, so  
whoever eats me will live because of me.  
<sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from  
heaven, not like that which your ancestors  
ate, and they died. But the one who eats  
this bread will live for ever.’ <sup>59</sup>He said these  
things while he was teaching in the  
synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they  
said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can  
accept it?’ <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his  
disciples were complaining about it, said to  
them, ‘Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if  
you were to see the Son of Man ascending  
to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit  
that gives life; the flesh is useless. The  
words that I have spoken to you are spirit  
and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some  
who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from  
the first who were the ones that did not  
believe, and who was the one that would  
betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, ‘For this reason I  
have told you that no one can come to me  
unless it is granted by the Father.’

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples  
turned back and no longer went about with  
him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you  
also wish to go away?’ <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter  
answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We  
have come to believe and know that you  
are the Holy One of God.’ (NRSV)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have  
set aside our sins and given us your healing:  
grant that we who are made whole in  
Christ may bring that healing to this  
broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord.