

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

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength
of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of
God, so that you may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For 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.
¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand therefore,
and fasten the belt of truth around your
waist, and put on the breastplate of
righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put
on whatever will make you ready to
proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of
these, take the shield of faith, with which
you will be able to quench all the flaming
arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of
salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.
¹⁸Pray 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. ¹⁹Pray 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, ²⁰for 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: ⁵⁶‘Those who eat
my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent
me, and I live because of the Father, so
whoever eats me will live because of me.
⁵⁸This 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.’ ⁵⁹He said these
things while he was teaching in the
synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they
said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can
accept it?’ ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his
disciples were complaining about it, said to
them, ‘Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if
you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit
that gives life; the flesh is useless. The
words that I have spoken to you are spirit
and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, ‘For this reason I
have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted by the Father.’

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples
turned back and no longer went about with
him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you
also wish to go away?’ ⁶⁸Simon Peter
answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We
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.