

**23 August 2026**  
**13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **Readings and Hymn Sheet**

To be used in conjunction with the Service Booklet for Pentecost



## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *(at 10am – refer to Service Booklet page 1)*

- 1 Praise my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise the everlasting King!
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless,  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3 Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
widely as his mercy flows!
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but while mortals rise and perish  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise the high eternal one!
- 5 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him;  
dwellers all in time and space:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise with us the God of grace!

H F Lyte (1793-1847) - Public domain

## **Sentence** *(refer to Service Booklet page 1)*

*Said by the President*

Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Matthew 16.15–16

## **Collects** *(refer to Service Booklet page 2)*

*Said by the President*

### **Collect of the Day:**

Creator God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect for Peace:**

Sovereign Lord, you created all nations from one source. We pray for peace in the halls of power and diplomacy. Guide world leaders to seek understanding over domination, and collaboration over aggression. Break the cycles of retaliation and war. May the global community act with courage and conscience to support peace, in every nation at war; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD** *(refer to Service Booklet page 2)*

*Please be seated for the First Reading, the Psalm and the Second Reading)*

### **First Reading**

**Exodus 1.8-14**

A reading from the book of Exodus, Chapter 1, beginning at verse 8

1 <sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 124**

<sup>1</sup> If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say:

if the Lord had not been on our side, when our enemies rose against us,

<sup>2</sup> **Then they would have swallowed us alive:**

**when their anger was kindled against us.**

<sup>3</sup> Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us:

the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

<sup>4</sup> **But praised be the Lord:**

**who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.**

- <sup>5</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:  
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.
- <sup>6</sup> **Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.**

## Second Reading

## Romans 11.1-36

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 11, beginning at verse 1

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> 'Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.' <sup>4</sup> But what is the divine reply to him? 'I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' <sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, <sup>8</sup> as it is written, 'God gave them a sluggish spirit, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.'

<sup>9</sup> And David says, 'Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling-block and a retribution for them; <sup>10</sup> let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and keep their backs for ever bent.'

<sup>11</sup> So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. <sup>12</sup> Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry <sup>14</sup> in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! <sup>16</sup> If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy.

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not vaunt yourselves over the branches. If you do vaunt yourselves, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup> You will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' <sup>20</sup> That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. <sup>22</sup> Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity towards those who have fallen, but God's kindness

towards you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

<sup>25</sup> So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, 'Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.' <sup>27</sup> 'And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; <sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> 'For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?'

<sup>35</sup> 'Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?'

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **GOSPEL HYMN** *(refer to Service Booklet page 3)*

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find,  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.

- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
who serves my Father as his child  
is surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north,  
all Christlike souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

William Arthur Dunkerley ('John Oxenham') 1852-1941. Public domain

## **The Gospel** *(refer to Service Booklet page 3)*

**Matthew 16.13-20**

*(Standing facing the reader)*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts,  
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 16,  
beginning at verse 13

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## **OFFERTORY HYMN** *(refer to Service Booklet page 4)*

*During the singing of this hymn, the offertory will be collected and brought forward to the Sanctuary.*

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of our God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
such music in the sinner's ears  
is life, and health, and peace.
- 3 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.
- 4 He speaks, and listening to his voice  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
- 5 Hear him, you deaf; his praise, you dumb,  
your loosened tongues employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour come;  
and leap, you lame, for joy.
- 6 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) public domain

## **FINAL HYMN** *(refer to Service Booklet page 7)*

- 1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

### *Refrain*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory! great things he has done!*

- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God!  
and every offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Refrain*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory! great things he has done!*

- 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Refrain*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory! great things he has done!*

Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820-1915) - Public domain.

*You are welcome to take the Readings and Hymn Sheet with you.*