

6th Sunday after Trinity — Sunday 16th July 2023
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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.

1st READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it
shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that
which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I
sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in
peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst
into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their
hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall
be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign
that shall not be cut off.

2nd READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life
in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and
of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened
by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in
the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he
condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just
requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who
walk not according to the flesh but according to the
Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set
their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who
live according to the Spirit set their minds on the
things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is
death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and
peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the
flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's
law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh
cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,
since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who
does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to
him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead

because of sin, the Spirit is life because of
righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus
from the dead dwells in you, he who raised
Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal
bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and
sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered
around him that he got into a boat and sat there,
while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And
he told them many things in parables, saying:
'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he
sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds
came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky
ground, where they did not have much soil, and
they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of
soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched;
and since they had no root, they withered
away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the
thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds
fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a
hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone
with ears listen!'

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When
anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does
not understand it, the evil one comes and
snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is
what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was
sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears
the word and immediately receives it with
joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures
only for a while, and when trouble or persecution
arises on account of the word, that person
immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown
among thorns, this is the one who hears the word,
but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth
choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for
what was sown on good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and understands it, who indeed
bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold,
in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.