

Readings for Sunday 7th September 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Collect

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading *Philemon 1-21*

A reading from Philemon

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to
Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I
hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus.
I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you
perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received
much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the
saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to
do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love, and I,
Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I
am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become
during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is
indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own
heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of
service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I
preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good
deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the
reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have
him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a

beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

This is the word of the Lord

Gospel Reading *Luke 14.25-33*

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Post Communion

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.