**The Collect and Gospel Reading**

**appointed for the 8th Sunday after Trinity**

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A Reading from St Luke’s Gospel, chapter 12, verses 32-40**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not be afraid, little flock,

for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions and give to the poor.

Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out,

a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted,

where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,

like men waiting for their master

to return from a wedding banquet,

so that when he comes and knocks

they can immediately open the door for him.

It will be good for those servants

whose master finds them watching when he comes.

I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve,

will have them recline at the table

and will come and wait on them.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

But understand this: If the owner of the house

had known at what hour the thief was coming,

he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be ready,

because the Son of Man will come

at an hour when you do not expect him.”