**The Collect and Gospel Reading appointed for 31 August, the 11th Sunday after Trinity**

O God, you declare your almighty power  
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,  
that we, running the way of your commandments,  
may receive your gracious promises,  
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
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. Amen.

**A Reading from St Luke’s Gospel, chapter 14, verse 1 and verses 7-14**

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee,

he was being carefully watched.

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table,

Jesus told them this parable:

“When someone invites you to a wedding feast,

do not take the place of honour,

for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.

If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you,

‘Give this man your seat.’

Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

But when you are invited, take the lowest place,

so that when your host comes, he will say to you,

‘Friend, move up to a better place.’

Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,

and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to his host,

“When you give a luncheon or dinner,

do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours;

if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

But when you give a banquet,

invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

and you will be blessed.

Although they cannot repay you,

you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”