

Readings for Sunday 26th July 2026, Trinity 8

First Reading – 1 Kings 3.5–12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

Psalm 119.129–136

The opening of your word gives light.

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The opening of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and draw in my breath, as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.

The opening of your word gives light.

Order my steps by your word, and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors so that I may keep your commandments.

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant and teach me your statutes. My eyes run down with streams of water, because the wicked do not keep your law.

The opening of your word gives light.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Second Reading – Romans 8.26–end

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them,

'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Hymns for Sunday 26th July 2026, Trinity 8

Gathering

All for Jesus: 13

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
This our song shall ever be:
for we have no hope nor Saviour
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus! thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee hour by
hour;
none can move us from thy
presence
while we trust thy love and pow'er.

All for Jesus! at thine altar
thou dost give us sweet content;
there, dear Savior, we receive thee
in thy holy sacrament.

All for Jesus! thou hast loved us,
all for Jesus! thou hast died,
all for Jesus! thou art with us,
all for Jesus, glorified!

All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
This the Church's song shall be,
till at last the flock is gathered
one in love, and one in thee.

Gradual: Will you come and follow me: 752

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps
show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

Offertory

Be thou my vision: 70

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my
heart,
naught be all else to me save that
thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and
the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my
light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my
true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me
Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true
heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy
care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword
for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou
my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my
strong tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r
of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor all the
world's praise,
thou mine inheritance through all
my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my
heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure
thou art!

High King of heaven, when battle is
done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright
heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever
befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of
all.

Dismissal

Tell out my soul: 63 I

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit
voice;
tender to me the promise of his
word –
in God my Saviour shall my heart
rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
his name!
Make known his might, the deeds
his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the
same –
his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty
One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of
his might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their
glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are
put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted
high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his
word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy
sure:
tell out, my soul, the greatness of
the Lord
to children's children and for
evermore!