

# Sunday

26 July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

## COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and  
govern both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws and the works of  
your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection,  
both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

*A reading from the first book of Kings.*

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."

Or **Genesis 29:15-28**

## PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

**R** Lord, how I love your law.

Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
When your word goes forth it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and pant;  
I long for your commandments.  
Turn to me in mercy,  
as you always do to those who love your  
name. **R**

Steady my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments. **R**

Let your countenance shine upon your  
servant  
and teach me your statutes.  
My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

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 Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.*

Jesus put before the crowd 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."

## POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that have taken holy things;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your  
praise be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of  
your love shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed  
with your body be refreshed with the  
fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever.

redemptorist  
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