**The Collect and Readings appointed for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.

**The Old Testament Reading is taken from the Book of Joshua,**

**chapter 1, verses 1-9**

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD,

the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant:

‘Moses my servant is dead.

Now then, you and all these people,

get ready to cross the Jordan River

into the land I am about to give to them – to the Israelites.

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon,

and from the great river, the Euphrates –

all the Hittite country – to the Great Sea on the west.

No-one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life.

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you;

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

‘Be strong and courageous,

because you will lead these people

to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.

Be strong and very courageous.

Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you;

do not turn from it to the right or to the left,

that you may be successful wherever you go.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth;

meditate on it day and night,

so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be terrified;

do not be discouraged,

for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.’

**The New Testament Reading is taken from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians,**

**chapter 6, verses 10-20**

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armour of God

so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers,

against the authorities,

against the powers of this dark world

and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armour of God,

so that when the day of evil comes,

you may be able to stand your ground,

and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then,

with the belt of truth buckled round your waist,

with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this,

take up the shield of faith,

with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pray also for me,

that whenever I open my mouth,

words may be given me

so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

for which I am an ambassador in chains.

Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.