**The Collect and Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Old Testament Reading is taken from Deuteronomy,**

**Chapter 4, verses 1-2 & 6-9**

Moses said:

“Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you.

Follow them so that you may live

and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD,

the God of your fathers,

is giving you.

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it,

but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

“Observe them carefully,

for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations,

who will hear about all these decrees and say,

‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

What other nation is so great

as to have their gods near them

the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

And what other nation is so great

as to have such righteous decrees and laws

 as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

“Only be careful,

and watch yourselves closely so

that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen

or let them slip from your heart as long as you live.

Teach them to your children

and to their children after them.”

**The New Testament Reading is taken from St Matthew’s Gospel,**

**chapter 4, verse 23 to chapter 5, verse 20**

Jesus went throughout Galilee,

teaching in their synagogues,

preaching the good news of the kingdom,

and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

News about him spread all over Syria,

and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases,

those suffering severe pain,

the demon-possessed,

those having seizures,

and the paralysed,

and he healed them.

Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea

and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you

when people insult you, persecute you

and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,

for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?

It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

“You are the light of the world.

A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

Instead they put it on its stand,

and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before men,

that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.