**Sunday 17th October**

**The Collect and Readings appointed for the 20th Sunday after Trinity**

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit’s gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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.

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

**chapter 53 verses 4-12**

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
And who can speak of his descendants?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the LORD’S will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.
After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

**The New Testament Reading is taken from the Gospel according to St Mark,**

**chapter 10 verses 35-45**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus.

‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we want you to do for us whatever we ask.’

‘What do you want me to do for you?’ he asked.

They replied,

‘Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.’

‘You don’t know what you are asking,’ Jesus said.

‘Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?’

‘We can,’ they answered.

Jesus said to them,

‘You will drink the cup I drink

and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with,

but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant.

These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.’

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

Jesus called them together and said,

‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,

and their high officials exercise authority over them.

Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

**Sunday October 24th**

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

**Also known as Bible Sunday**

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

**chapter 31 verses 7-9**

This is what the LORD says:

‘Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘O LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’
See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labour;
a great throng will return.
They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel’s father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.’

**The New Testament Reading is taken from the Gospel according to St Mark,**

**chapter 10 verses 46-52**

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho.

As they, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city,

a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout,

‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more,

‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’

Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’

So they called to the blind man,

‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’

Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’

‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.