

**Sunday 10 August 2025,  
Trinity 8**

**Collect:**

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Readings for this week:**

*Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-21; Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40*

We have moved backwards in Genesis from the events recounted a few weeks ago when Abraham and Sarah camped by the oak trees at Mamre received God's promise of a child. Abram has not yet received his new name, but God has already promised him (12:1-3) that Abram will be ancestor of a great nation. In today's reading God reiterates that promise, assuring Abram that it will come to pass. In response Abram expresses his concern about his childlessness, but God replies with further affirmation. Abram believes what God says which underscores the rightness of God's judgment in choosing him in the first place. The section from Psalm 33 contains a communal hymn of praise to God, sung by the whole congregation. Verse 12 gives the reason for the praise, because God has seen fit to make them (the descendants of Abram) the chosen people. The hymn continues by depicting God as sovereign of the universe, the shaper of the people's hearts, and as more powerful than the greatest army. In response, the people, like Abram before them, should show fear, patience, trust and hope in God.

Faith, according to our portion from Hebrews, is what gives substance to those hopes, and also convinces us of the realities we do not see. The main exemplars of faith in this passage are, again, Abraham and Sarah, whose belief in God's promises remains steady, even though they will not live to see them come to fruition. Nor will their immediate descendants, Isaac and then Jacob, but through them the promised nation is coming to life. The faith that is described is dynamic, allowing us to move through time and history and giving us the confidence, the hope, to play our part in living the Gospel. In today's selection from Luke, Jesus instructs his disciples to put their trust in God's kingdom rather than earthly possessions, to be free of both covetousness and anxiety. Keeping the faith, as Abram did, leads us to focus on God rather than wealth, enabling us to recognise and meet with the God who is always seeking to break into our lives.

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. Amen.

**Readings for next week:**

*Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56*  
*Trinity 9*