

**Sunday 26 October 2025,
Bible Sunday**

Collect:

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for this week:

Isaiah 45:22-25; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 15.1-6; Luke 4:16-24

‘From my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return’ says the Lord, in our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Whether that is Jesus, the Word that spoke creation into existence, or the words of Scripture, once he/they have been released into the world it is up to us how to respond. Over the centuries this has taken many forms, from indifference to devotion. At best there is a profound searching into the many layers of meaning contained within the riches of the sixty-six Biblical books, leading to a genuine meeting with God. But often we treat God’s communication with us through the Bible’s pages with casual disregard for the deep challenges and truths it contains. Psalm 119, which is constructed by a formal plan composed of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, reinforces the value of attending carefully to God’s words and God’s law, but it expands off the page to demonstrate how God’s truth can be found woven throughout all creation, like letters through a stick of rock.

Paul, in our passage from Romans, reminds us of the hope contained in Scripture – hope for God’s continual engagement with creation. Living out this hope means that we will work for the growth of those around us – it is a building block for a holy and thriving community. Which leads us to Jesus in Luke’s Gospel, reading from a later portion of Isaiah and preaching to his hometown about the message at the heart of much of the Hebrew Scriptures, that God is focussed on bringing hope and healing to the broken and disregarded. This care for the vulnerable leads to the creation of thriving, holy communities. While nurtured by God’s will, to continue flourishing they also require our serious commitment to bringing alive the truth and hope of God’s word in our homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods. The theme of justice for the struggling and the voiceless that Jesus highlights by choosing this passage, and then continues to live out in his ministry, is central to the Bible, being one of the core messages running through almost every page.

The Bible needs to be read prayerfully, carefully, thoughtfully and with many questions. It also constantly questions our own preconceptions. If you wish to be well-informed about the many forms of Scripture contained in its sixty-six books, then one of the best books I can recommend is: *A History of the Bible: The Book and its Faiths*, John Barton, Penguin, 9780141978505.

Grant us, Lord God the vision of your Kingdom,
forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit
so that we may share your vision,
proclaim your love and change this world
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Readings for next week:

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
All Saints’ Day