

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Midweek 26th August 2026 Trinity 12

The Collect

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 medi-
ation 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. **Amen.**

First reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-end

A reading from Paul's 2nd Letter to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the mark in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Psalm 128

1. Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, • and walk in his ways.
2. You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; • it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
3. Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; • your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.
4. Thus shall the one be blest • who fears the Lord.
5. The Lord from out of Zion bless you, • that you

may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.

6. May you see your children's children, • and may there be peace upon Israel.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 23:27-32

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, "If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets." Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

