



Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

4th October 2026

♪ **Hymn (676)** ♪

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
high soaring above,
Thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest,
to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish;
but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render:
O help us to see
'tis only the splendour
of light hideth Thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) based on 1 Timothy 1.17

♪ **Hymn (806)** ♪

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in His justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's
sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make His love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify His strictness
with a zeal He would not own.

There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take Him at His Word;
and our lives would be all gladness,
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

♪ **Hymn (766)** ♪

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise Him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
widely as His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), based on Psalm 103

♪ Chant (600) ♪

Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life.

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♪ Hymn (595) ♪

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me,
save that Thou art;
be Thou my best thought

in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word,
be Thou ever with me,
and I with Thee, Lord;
be Thou my great Father
and I Thy true heir;
be Thou in me dwelling,
and I in thy care.

Be Thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be Thou my whole armour,
be Thou my true might;
be Thou my soul's shelter,
be Thou my strong tower:
O raise Thou me heavenward,
great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise,
be Thou mine inheritance
now and always;
be Thou and Thou only
the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven,
Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after
victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be Thou my vision,
O Ruler of all.

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♪ Hymn (671) ♪

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me;
how He left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me —
sing it with His saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me,
back into the narrow way.
Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but His presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then He'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me —
sing it with His saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

Francis Harold Rowley (1854-1952)

First Reading

Exodus 20.1–4, 7–9, 12–20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought
you out of the land of Egypt, out of the
house of slavery; ³you shall have no
other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol,
whether in the form of anything that is
in heaven above, or that is on the earth
beneath, or that is in the water under
the earth.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the
name of the Lord your God, for the
Lord will not acquit anyone who
misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it
holy. ⁹For six days you shall labour and
do all your work.

¹²Honour your father and your mother,
so that your days may be long in the
land that the Lord your God is giving
you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against
your neighbour.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's
house; you shall not covet your
neighbour's wife, or male or female
slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that
belongs to your neighbour.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the
thunder and lightning, the sound of the
trumpet, and the mountain smoking,
they were afraid and trembled and
stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses,
'You speak to us, and we will listen; but
do not let God speak to us, or we will
die.' ²⁰Moses said to the people, 'Do not
be afraid; for God has come only to test
you and to put the fear of him upon
you so that you do not sin.'

Second Reading

Philippians 3.4b–14

If anyone else has reason to be
confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a
member of the people of Israel, of the
tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of
Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as
to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as
to righteousness under the law,
blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have
come to regard as loss because of
Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard
everything as loss because of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus

my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

Matthew 21.33–end

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.”

³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.”³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he

do to those tenants?’⁴¹ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

⁴²Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes”?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your
commandments

and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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.

Post Communion Prayer

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for
this sacred feast:

for here we receive you,

here the memory of your passion is
renewed,

here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where
you reign with all your saints for ever.