

# Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

25 August 2024

## Collect

Everliving God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in the ministry to which you have called them  
each may serve you in holiness and truth;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## 1st Reading

### 1 Kings 8.22-30, 8.41-43

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.  
<sup>23</sup> He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart,  
<sup>24</sup> the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." <sup>26</sup> Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. <sup>27</sup> 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes

may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. <sup>41</sup> Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name <sup>42</sup> —for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, <sup>43</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 84**

- <sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling-place:  
O Lord God of hosts!
- <sup>2</sup> My soul has a desire and longing  
to enter the courts of the Lord:  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- <sup>3</sup> The sparrow has found her a home,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house:  
they will always be praising you.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you:  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;
- <sup>6</sup> Who, going through the valley of dryness,  
find there a spring from which to drink:  
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.
- <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength:  
they appear, every one of them,  
before the God of gods in Zion.
- <sup>8</sup> O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:  
give ear, O God of Jacob.

- 9** Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:  
and look upon the face of your anointed.
- 10** One day in your courts is better than a thousand:  
I would rather stand at the threshold  
of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- 11** For the Lord God is a light and a shield,  
the Lord gives favour and honour:  
and no good thing will he withhold  
from those who walk in innocence.
- 12** O Lord God of hosts:  
blessed are those who put their trust in you.

## **2nd Reading**

### **Ephesians 6**

- 1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2** “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise—
- 3** “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
- 4** Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- 5** Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.
- 6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.
- 7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,
- 8** because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.
- 9** And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.
- 10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- 11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

**12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

**15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

**16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**19** Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

**20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

**21** Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing.

**22** I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

**23** Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

## **Gospel**

### **John 6.56-69**

**56** Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. **57** Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will

live for ever.' <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' <sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'