

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

18 August 2024

Collect

Everliving God,
your Son, Jesus Christ,
gave himself as living bread for the life of the world:
give us such a knowledge of his presence
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
to serve you continually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.3-14

¹⁰ Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. ³ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶ And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people,

so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴ If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

Psalm

Psalm 111

- ¹ O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord
with my whole heart:
in the company of the upright
and among the congregation.
- ² The works of the Lord are great:
and studied by all who take delight in them.
- ³ His deeds are majestic and glorious:
and his righteousness stands for ever.
- ⁴ His marvellous acts have won him a name
to be remembered:
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- ⁵ He gives food to those that fear him:
he remembers his covenant for ever.
- ⁶ He showed his people the power of his acts:
in giving them the heritage of the heathen.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just:
and all his commandments are sure;
- ⁸ They stand firm for ever and ever:
they are done in faithfulness and in truth.
- ⁹ He sent redemption to his people,

he ordained his covenant for ever:
holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and of good understanding are those
that keep his commandments:
his praise shall endure for ever.

2nd Reading

Ephesians

- 1** Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children
- 2** and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 3** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
- 4** Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
- 5** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person —such a person is an idolater— has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- 6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.
- 7** Therefore do not be partners with them.
- 8** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light
- 9** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)
- 10** and find out what pleases the Lord.
- 11** Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.
- 12** It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.
- 13** But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.
- 14** This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
- 15** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Instructions for Christian Households

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—

30 for we are members of his body.

31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Gospel

John 6.51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' ⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 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.'