

# Sunday 11 October 2020

## 18th Sunday after Trinity

*Proper 23*

### **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.

### **Isaiah 25.1–9**

**25** O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful  
and sure. <sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations  
will fear you. <sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the  
needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from  
the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup> the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat  
with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of  
rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with  
marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on  
this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is  
spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the  
disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord  
has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### **Philippians 4.1–9**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### **Matthew 22.1–14**

**22** Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready,

but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.’

### **Post Communion**

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.

## **The Week Ahead**

### **Monday-Friday**

9am Morning Prayer live on St Thomas' Facebook page

5pm Evening Prayer live on St James' Facebook page

### **Thursday**

7.30pm Deanery Synod on Zoom. This is for Vision Champions, Deanery Synod Reps and PCC members. Bishop Julian and Archdeacon Mark will guide us through the next phase of *Vision 2026*. Please make the time to ‘attend’.

Zoom details from PCC secretaries.

### **Next Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> October)**

St James' Annual Meeting takes place after the morning service. Please plan to stay an extra half an hour to receive the reports and accounts and to elect churchwardens and PCC members.

# NOTICES

## Challenge Poverty Week

October 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2020

#TogetherWeCan #ChallengePoverty

We are pleased to be working with RAFT on this initiative, part of the work of **Christians Against Poverty**. We are asked to help raise awareness about poverty and to reduce the stigma surrounding it. There will be information on social media, including Rossendale Radio, in the coming week.

You are invited to take a DIY lantern from the back of church, to make it, place a battery tealight inside it, and place it in a window on #ShineALightSaturday

## Remembrance Sunday (8 November)

This year our remembrances will necessarily be a little different.

St James' will hold its service, as usual, at 10.45am and the wreath-laying will take place at the War Memorial following this service.

St Thomas' will hold a normal Sunday morning Parish Eucharist at 9.15am with an Act of Remembrance. You will need a [free] ticket for this service so that we can maintain a safe number of people in church. Tickets will be available to regular congregation members first and will be available from Sunday 25 October. We are discussing options for a Royal British Legion Service later in the morning.

## Prayer List

Please keep us informed about anyone who you think could be added to our prayer list and also how those who are on it are doing.

## Local Covid Restrictions

We will all be very aware of the challenges of increased infection rates locally at the moment. Fortunately, it seems that, for the moment, public acts of worship will be unaffected. It is as important as ever that we keep ourselves and our buildings as safe as we can so that we can stay open.

Please remember that **face coverings** are mandatory and should cover nose and mouth. Please remember to use the **hand sanitizer** as you arrive and leave. Please **go straight to your seat** in church – and stay there. **Please don't wander and chat.** If you're feeling unwell then please join in with our services online from the comfort of your home.