

Holsworthy Benefice

September News Sheet

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
30th Aug	10am Benefice Service at Bridgerule				
6th Sept	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Family Service
13th Sept	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Harvest Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
20th Sept	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Sung Eucharist	11am Harvest Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
27th Sept	11am All Age Harvest Eucharist		11am Cafe style Church	9.30am Family Harvest Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
4th Oct	11am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Harvest Festival
11th Oct	11am Morning Prayer	3pm Evensong	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
18th Oct	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am Sung Eucharist	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
25th Oct	11am All Age Eucharist		11am Cafe style Church	9.30am Family Eucharist Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
31st Oct			4pm All Hallows Eve Service		6pm All Souls Service

WWW.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at Holsworthy Churches

www.achurchnearyou.com

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Dear Friends,

Last month I included a prayer in our newsletter for our farmers facing drought conditions. Since then conditions for farmers have worsened. The long period of drought has affected arable crops and many farmers are without grazing for their livestock, already using precious winter forage for summer feed. On top of this, the bluetongue virus has had a major detrimental impact. Please continue to pray for our farmers as we move into autumn. May God give them the increase of crops they need, and healthy livestock, to sustain them through the coming winter.

God of compassion,
we rejoice in the unity that is at the heart of your creation;
look upon our land and heal it,
and from the bluetongue virus and drought conditions,
good Lord, deliver us.
As we come before you in prayer for all who are suffering,
grant that your light may shine in their darkness,
and that we may bear one another's burdens
and so fulfil your law of love.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

September is the time we share prayer and thanksgiving at our harvest services. Please note the dates of our various harvest festivals, and the harvest readings listed.

In September we also remember those who are returning to school, or moving on to higher education or training. This autumn we have a brand new home group for our younger church members. Look out for the details in the newsletter.

For the rest of us, our autumn study course during October & November is based upon Bear Grylls' *The Greatest Story Ever Told* – an imaginative and realistic re-telling of the gospel stories. Books are available during September to give you the opportunity to read ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Alison

Diary dates in September

Tuesday 1st – Home Group

7-8.30pm at the Rectory every Tuesday

or

Thursday 3rd – Home Group

10-11.30am at the Rectory every Thursday

Please note, the same material is used at each group: please only attend one of the groups in any one week

Wednesday 2nd – Bishop Moira visit

9am Holsworthy Livestock Market

Saturday 5th – Pyworthy Village Show

1.30pm Pyworthy Village Hall, for all the family

Saturday 5th - St P & St P in church at 09.30am working party to paint the floorboards under the pews against woodworm. All helpers welcome, brushes, jamjar and mask appreciated. Treatment liquid provided. Also a mini Spring/Autumn clean in choir and around font areas.

Saturday 12th – Ride & Stride

all day, a day to welcome and support the Devon Historic Churches Trust

Monday 14th – Ark

3.30-4.45pm at the Rectory for Years 5 – 8, weekly from Monday 28th

Wednesday 16th – Coffee Morning

9-12noon Memorial Hall in aid of St Petroc's Church, Hollacombe

Harvest Festivals

Sunday 13th Hollacombe, 3pm Harvest Evensong with Tea and Auction

Sunday 20th Holsworthy, 11am followed by Harvest Lunch

Sunday 27th Pancrasweek, 9.30 Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 27th Bridgerule, 11am All-age Harvest Eucharist

Sunday 4th October Pyworthy, 9.30am Family Harvest Festival

Harvest Readings

Deuteronomy 28.1-14

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9.6-end

Luke 17.11-19

Welcome to the Holsworthy and Stratton Show!

We would like to invite you to join us at **Pitch 10** for:

- Free Refreshments — Tea, Coffee and Cakes and time to chat
- With all age Crafts
- Prayer for any need
- Games
- Or, just take time to chill and relax...

Working together to
bless our communities



Holsworthy Christians Together

**Pitch
10**



NDVS NORTHERN DEVON TTVS COMMUNITY PRIORITIES SURVEY

We would like to hear your feedback on whether the local priorities in your area, reflect what matters most to you, whether anything is missing and what issues you think should be a focus for the future.

Here's the link or scan the QR below:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/2iHD2wcg98>



ARK YOUTH CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP



OF THE COVENANT

YEAR GROUPS 5-8 (AGES 9-13)



MONDAYS 3.30 - 4.45PM
DURING TERM TIME

FREE

DATES & SESSIONS IN AUTUMN 2026 & SPRING 2027:



WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

September 14 / 21 / 28; October 5 / 12



HOW CHRISTIANS GROW

November 2 / 9 / 16 / 23 / 30



LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

January 18 / 25; February 1 / 8



GAMES



REFRESHMENTS



STORIES



PRAYER



BIBLE



CRAFTS



PUZZLES



at The Rectory, Bodmin Street, Holsworthy



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH LIBBY:

holsworthybenefice@icloud.com



Readings for August and September

6th Sept - Green—Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 33: 7-11, Psalm 119: 33-40, Romans 13: 8-end, Matthew 18: 15-20

13th Sept - Green—Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 50: 15-21, Psalm 103: 1-13, Romans 14: 1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35

20th Sept - Green—Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Jonah 3: 1-end of 4, Psalm 145: 1-8, Philippians 1: 21-end, Matthew 20: 1-16

27th Sept - Green—Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Ezekiel 18: 1-4. 25-end, Psalm 25: 1-8, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21: 23-32.

4th Oct - Green—Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80: 8-16, Philippians 3: 4b-14, Matthew 21: 33-end

11th Oct - Green—Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 25: 1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4: 1-9, Matthew 22: 1-14

18th Oct – RED—Luke the Evangelist

Isaiah 35: 3-6, Psalm 147: 1-7, 2 Timothy 4: 5-17, Luke 10:1-9

25th Oct – Green—Bible Sunday

Nehemiah 8: 1-4a (5-6) 8-12, Psalm 119: 9-16, Colossians 3:12-17, Matthew 24: 30-35.

Contacts

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Holsworthy Foodbank

Samaritans

Age UK -

Domesic Abuse – Womens Aid

Domesic Abuse – Mens Advice Line

Childline

01271 377077

116 123

0808 055 6112

0808 2000 247

0808 8010 327

0800 111

Harvest Praise *(Year A)*

COLLECT: Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 28.1-14

Blessings for Obedience

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

Blessed shall you be in the city,
and blessed shall you be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb,
the fruit of your ground,
and the fruit of your livestock,
both the increase of your cattle
and the young ones of your flock.

Blessed shall be your basket
and your kneading-bowl.

Blessed shall you be when you come in,
and blessed shall you be when you go out.

The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. The Lord will make you abound in prosperity in the fruit of your ground in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open

for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. The Lord will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom—if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

GOSPEL READING Luke 17.11-19

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

BLESSING

May God who clothes the lilies
and feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture
and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes
and changed water into wine,
lead us, feed us, multiply us, and change us
to reflect the glory of our Creator
through all eternity; and the blessing ...

Sunday

6 September 2026 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your
presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast
wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Or **Exodus 12:1-14**

PSALM Psalm 119:33-40

R *My delight shall be in your commandments.*

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with my whole heart. **R**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for therein is my delight.
Incline my heart to your testimonies
and not to unjust gain.
Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities;
O give me life in your ways. **R**

Confirm to your servant your promise,
which stands for all who fear you.
Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgements are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness give me life. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in

revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke to his disciples. "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



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redemptorist
publications

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Or Exodus 14:19-end

PSALM Psalm 103:1-13 [or 103:8-13]

R The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his
holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits; **R**

Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and
compassion; **R**

Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an
eagle's.
The Lord executes righteousness
and judgement for all who are oppressed. **R**

He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
[The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to
our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above
the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who
fear him.] **R**

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human
frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things
hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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.

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10 – end of 4

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not

know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Or Exodus 16:2-15

PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

R Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out. **R**

One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts.
They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **R**

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,
and I will also tell of your greatness.
They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the

same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Great is the Lord and high-ly to be praised

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find
their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw
us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly
city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.

FIRST READING

Either Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me:
What do you mean by repeating this
proverb concerning the land of Israel,
"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on
edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this
proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the
life of the parent as well as the life of the
child is mine: it is only the person who
sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way
of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your
ways that are unfair? When the righteous
turn away from their righteousness and
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for
the iniquity that they have committed
they shall die. Again, when the wicked
turn away from the wickedness they have
committed and do what is lawful and
right, they shall save their life. Because
they considered and turned away from
all the transgressions that they had
committed, they shall surely live; they
shall not die. Yet the house of Israel
says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O
house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it
not your ways that are unfair? Therefore
I will judge you, O house of Israel, all
of you according to your ways, says the
Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will
be your ruin. Cast away from you all the
transgressions that you have committed
against me, and get yourselves a new
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die,
O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone, says the Lord
GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Or Exodus 17:1-7



Re - mem - ber, Lord, your com - pas - sion and love.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-8

R Remember, Lord, your compassion
and love.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to
shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and
frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion
and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness,
O Lord,
according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the
way.
He will guide the humble in doing right
and teach his way to the lowly. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in
Christ, any consolation from love, any
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of
the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind. Do
nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better
than yourselves. Let each of you look not
to your own interests, but to the interests
of others. Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he
was in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking
the form of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in human
form, he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death – even
death on a cross. Therefore God also
highly exalted him and gave him the
name that is above every name, so that
at the name of Jesus every knee should
bend, in heaven and on earth and under
the earth, and every tongue should

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father. Therefore, my
beloved, just as you have always obeyed
me, not only in my presence, but much
more now in my absence, work out your
own salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for
his good pleasure.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the
chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching, and
said, "By what authority are you doing
these things, and who gave you this
authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will
also ask you one question; if you tell
me the answer, then I will also tell you
by what authority I do these things. Did
the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?" And they
argued with one another, "If we say,
'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why
then did you not believe him?' But if
we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid
of the crowd; for all regard John as a
prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We
do not know." And he said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things. What do you
think? A man had two sons; he went to
the first and said, 'Son, go and work in
the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will
not'; but later he changed his mind and
went. The father went to the second and
said the same; and he answered, 'I go,
sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two
did the will of his father?" They said,
"The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly
I tell you, the tax-collectors and the
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of
God ahead of you. For John came to you
in the way of righteousness and you did
not believe him, but the tax-collectors
and the prostitutes believed him; and
even after you saw it, you did not change
your minds and believe him."

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to
all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.