

Sunday

23 August 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than
we to pray
and to give more than either we desire
or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of
your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which
we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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 Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue
righteousness, you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were
hewn, and to the quarry from which you
were dug. Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you; for he was
but one when I called him, but I blessed
him and made him many. For the LORD
will comfort Zion; he will comfort all
her waste places, and will make her
wilderness like Eden, her desert like the
garden of the LORD; joy and gladness
will be found in her, thanksgiving and
the voice of song. Listen to me, my
people, and give heed to me, my
nation; for a teaching will go out from
me, and my justice for a light to the
peoples. I will bring near my deliverance
swiftly, my salvation has gone out and
my arms will rule the peoples; the
coastlands wait for me, and for my arm
they hope. Lift up your eyes to the
heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like
gnats; but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Or Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

PSALM Psalm 138

R *Your loving-kindness, O Lord,
endures for ever.*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with
my whole heart;
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
I will bow down towards your holy
temple and praise your name, because
of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word above all things. **R**

In the day that I called to you, you
answered me;
you put new strength in my soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise
you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your
mouth. **R**

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he watches
over the lowly;
as for the proud, he regards them
from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you will preserve me;
you will stretch forth your hand against
the fury of my enemies; your right
hand will save me.
The Lord shall make good his purpose
for me;
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures
for ever; forsake not the work of your
hands. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers
and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. Do not
be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your
minds, so that you may discern what
is the will of God – what is good and
acceptable and perfect. For by the
grace given to me I say to everyone
among you not to think of yourself
more highly than you ought to think,
but to think with sober judgement, each
according to the measure of faith that

God has assigned. For as in one body
we have many members, and not all
the members have the same function,
so we, who are many, are one body in
Christ, and individually we are members
one of another. We have gifts that
differ according to the grace given to
us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in
teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity; the leader,
in diligence; the compassionate, in
cheerfulness.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

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

Now when Jesus came into the district
of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his
disciples, "Who do people say that the
Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some
say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets." He said to them, "But who
do you say that I am?" Simon Peter
answered, "You are the Messiah, the
Son of the living God." And Jesus
answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon
son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has
not revealed this to you, but my Father
in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail
against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven, and whatever you
bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will
be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly
ordered the disciples not to tell anyone
that he was the Messiah.

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our
sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in
Christ
may bring that healing to this broken
world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

