



23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENETECOST

16th November 2025
10:00 a.m.

Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

The world around us and at home appears very uneasy with itself verging on collapse or takeover in some places by a more powerful political force. Events currently in the Ukraine, Yemen, the Sudan and Gaza are brutal and continue to deprive innocent people of hope. Likewise, the political landscape is challenging at home and abroad. Politicians and some corporate leaders seem so often to be out of touch or simply pushing an ideological viewpoint that seems to ignore those most in need.

We are not exempt in the Church. I am sure we would all agree we have seen better days. This is not to suggest that there are not good and positive things happening in some places in both our churches and the broader community but the challenges the church faces are not too similar to that experienced by our political leaders

So, what does today's Gospel have to say about the matter and our present time? In today's Gospel the people who pointed out the Jerusalem temple to Jesus were overawed. Everyone marvelled at the grandeur of the building. His disciples of course who were not city dwellers would probably have never seen such a magnificent building and his response a bit of a shock. When we read today's Gospel Jesus drops the challenge into the hands of his followers before setting his face towards Jerusalem. It is the challenge to create peace on earth and justice for all of God's creation. So buckle your seat belts good people of God because Advent is around the corner and Jesus is at the steering wheel.

Shalom Fr Ray

INTROIT HYMN – 746 O God our help in ages past

I

SENTENCE May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Lord God of all ages, the One who is, who was, and who is to come: stir up within us a longing for your kingdom, keep our hearts steady in times of trial, and grant us patience endurance until the Sun of justice dawns.

We make our prayers through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen**

1ST READING, Isaiah 65 17-25

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Isaiah 12.2-6 A Song of Isaiah

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord God is my strength and my song and has become my salvation.

Therefore with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation.

And in that day shall you say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see.

Your redemption is near at hand.

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke 21.5-19

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

And as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said,

As for these things which you behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

And he said, Take heed that you be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go you not therefore after them.

But when you shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what you shall answer:

For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

And you shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

And you shall be hated of all people for my name's sake.

But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

In your patience possess you your souls.

For the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD: Peace in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo and Ukraine. For the Richmond Churches Food Centre and all those in need.

FOR THE SICK, RECOVERING, AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE Sandra, Bruce, John Ross, Neil, Craig, Helen, Nanette and Liam. *FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:* Frances Moloney

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK: Leon Bramich, Sid Bryant, Graeme Thornton, Thomas Haddock, Colin Hall, Michael Symons {priest}, Anne Fitzpatrick, John Martin, Robert Ely, Mavis Smart, Harry Glowaski, Jean Shand, Mary Ruthford, Beaurice Willis.

Offertory Hymn: AM 721 Love Divine all love excelling

Recessional Hymn: AM 593 At the name of Jesus

Choral Evensong Tonight at 5pm. Please come along and bring your friends. Promote it widely. Great choir and music.

**Next Sunday Feast of Christ the King with holy baptism at 10am.
Annual meeting to follow.**