



**READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020**  
**The Third Sunday after Trinity**

**Psalm 89.8-18**

8 Who is like you, Lord God of hosts? ♦  
Mighty Lord, your faithfulness is all around you.

9 You rule the raging of the sea; ♦  
you still its waves when they arise.

10 You crushed Rahab with a deadly wound ♦  
and scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

11 Yours are the heavens; the earth also is yours; ♦  
you established the world and all that fills it.

12 You created the north and the south; ♦  
Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name.

13 You have a mighty arm; ♦  
strong is your hand and high is your right hand.

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; ♦  
steadfast love and faithfulness go before your face.

15 Happy are the people who know the shout of triumph: ♦  
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance.

16 In your name they rejoice all the day long ♦  
and are exalted in your righteousness.

17 For you are the glory of their strength, ♦  
and in your favour you lift up our heads.

18 Truly the Lord is our shield; ♦  
the Holy One of Israel is our king.

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### The Collect

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### Romans 6.12-23

2 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18 and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. 20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Matt 10.40-42

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

## Reflection for 28 June 2020

This week we have quite a short reading, one that brings to an end our looking at Matthew Chapter 10, through the last few weeks. There has been some tough stuff to listen to, with serious warnings from the lips of Jesus about what his disciples can expect to happen when they begin to follow in his footsteps and live according his way.

These last few verses put everything in context. Whatever his disciples meet along the Way, here we have the promise of Jesus: 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.' Isn't that extraordinary? We are that close to Jesus Christ – so close that as St John might put it, he abides in us, and when we are welcomed, He is welcomed! Not only that, when Christ is welcomed through us, the Father who sent him is welcomed. Christ pervades all our relationships, he is here with us. So we need not fear - and more than that, as we live seeking to know him more dearly and follow him more nearly, how we live, invites others into the same Love. For as we open up the possibility to others of welcoming us, we are in this amazing new relationship also offering the chance for them to welcome Christ and the Father who sent him.

We may not think we can do very much. Perhaps especially right now, with the restrictions of the pandemic, we may feel there is nothing we can do. But just as last week we heard that God never overlooks anything, that he knows and notices even the smallest and most ordinary little bird, now we hear from Jesus that even the smallest act of kindness counts in the sight of our God: 'Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

We don't make acts of kindness, we don't offer a welcome, just because Jesus promises us a reward if we do! If we get the idea that we're following Jesus because of what's in it for us, we've got it all completely wrong. The whole point of Christ's life was about laying it down for others, so that's the deal for us too! But what our Gospel this week suggests is that even the smallest, everyday kindness and compassion, like offering a drink of water to a thirsty traveller, is enough for God to keep his promise to us.

Our God is always faithful. God never breaks a promise. So be encouraged! And this week, when we have the opportunity to offer a welcome, perhaps to someone delivering a prescription or our food; or when we are offered a drink – think of what our Lord said, and try to receive and give with a smile, with warmth in our hearts for the person who is there, because when we welcome them, we welcome Jesus. We can also look for the opportunities God brings us to be kind and compassionate, remembering that even the smallest of ways will noticed and remembered by our Father. The little things we can do are more than just a sign of following our Master – they may help someone else have a glimpse of God, even in the darkest of times, and let them know his kingdom of love and peace is here.