

Today's Readings

16th July 2023
6th Sunday after
Trinity

THE COLLECT

Creator God,
you made us all in your
image:
may we discern you in all
that we see,
and serve you in all that we
do;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55.10-13

For as the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return there until
they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and
sprout, giving seed to the
sower and bread to the
eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be
that goes out from my
mouth; it shall not return to
me empty, but it shall
accomplish that which I
purpose, and succeed in the
thing for which I sent it. ¹²
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills

before you shall burst into
song, and all the trees of the
field shall clap their hands.
³ Instead of the thorn shall
come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall
come up the myrtle; and it
shall be to the Lord for a
memorial, for an everlasting
sign that shall not be cut off.

SECOND READING

Romans 8.1-11

There is therefore now no
condemnation for those who
are in Christ Jesus. ² For the
law of the Spirit of life in
Christ Jesus has set you
free from the law of sin and
of death. ³ For God has
done what the law,
weakened by the flesh,
could not do: by sending his
own Son in the likeness of
sinful flesh, and to deal with
sin, he condemned sin in the
flesh, ⁴ so that the just
requirement of the law might
be fulfilled in us, who walk
not according to the flesh
but according to the Spirit.
⁵ For those who live
according to the flesh set
their minds on the things of
the flesh, but those who live
according to the Spirit set

their minds on the things of
the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind
on the flesh is death, but to
set the mind on the Spirit is
life and peace. ⁷ For this
reason the mind that is set
on the flesh is hostile to
God; it does not submit to
God's law—indeed it
cannot, ⁸ and those who are
in the flesh cannot please
God. ⁹ But you are not in the
flesh; you are in the Spirit,
since the Spirit of God
dwells in you. Anyone who
does not have the Spirit of
Christ does not belong to
him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you,
though the body is dead
because of sin, the Spirit is
life because of
righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit
of him who raised Jesus
from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ from
the dead will give life to your
mortal bodies also through
his Spirit that dwells in you.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

That same day Jesus went
out of the house and sat
beside the lake. ² Such
great crowds gathered
around him that he got into a

boat and sat there, while the
whole crowd stood on the
beach. ³ And he told them
many things in parables,
saying: 'Listen! A sower
went out to sow. ⁴ And as he
sowed, some seeds fell on
the path, and the birds came
and ate them up. ⁵ Other
seeds fell on rocky ground,
where they did not have
much soil, and they sprang
up quickly, since they had
no depth of soil. ⁶ But when
the sun rose, they were
scorched; and since they
had no root, they withered
away. ⁷ Other seeds fell
among thorns, and the
thorns grew up and choked
them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on
good soil and brought forth
grain, some a hundredfold,
some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let
anyone with ears listen!'
¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of
the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone
hears the word of the
kingdom and does not
understand it, the evil one
comes and snatches away
what is sown in the heart;
this is what was sown on the
path. ²⁰ As for what was
sown on rocky ground, this
is the one who hears the

word and immediately
receives it with joy; ²¹ yet
such a person has no root,
but endures only for a while,
and when trouble or
persecution arises on
account of the word, that
person immediately falls
away. ²² As for what was
sown among thorns, this is
the one who hears the word,
but the cares of the world
and the lure of wealth choke
the word, and it yields
nothing. ²³ But as for what
was sown on good soil, this
is the one who hears the
word and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit and
yields, in one case a
hundredfold, in another
sixty, and in another thirty.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living
water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our
journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord.