



ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE

Prayer and Readings for the 14th Sunday after Trinity – 5 September 2021

A Prayer for Trinity 14

Lord open our lives to your goodness
Open our eyes to your presence
Open our ears to your call
Open our hearts to your love
Open our lips to your praises
Open us to your glory
Amen.

Psalm 146

- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being,
I will sing praises to my God.
- 2 Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.
- 3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
- 8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;
- 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia.

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.'
Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.