

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

31 August 2025

Sentence

All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Luke 14.11

Collect

O God,
you invite the humble and the sinful
to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant:
teach your Church always
to honour the presence of the Lord in the poor and the outcast,
so that we may learn to recognise each other
as brothers and sisters gathered together around your table.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

Jeremiah 2.4–13

⁴ Hear the word of the Lord , O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.

⁵ Thus says the Lord :

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me,
and went after worthless things, and became worthless
themselves?

⁶ They did not say, 'Where is the Lord
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?'

7 I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.
But when you entered you defiled my land,
and made my heritage an abomination.
8 The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord ?'
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal,
and went after things that do not profit.
9 Therefore once more I accuse you,
says the Lord ,
and I accuse your children's children.
10 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.
11 Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.
12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
says the Lord ,
13 for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

Psalm

Psalm 81.1, 81.10–16

1 O sing joyfully to God our strength:
shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.
10 'I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt:
open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.
11 'But my people would not listen to my voice:

- and Israel would have none of me.
- ¹² 'So I left them to the stubbornness of their hearts:
to walk according to their own designs.
- ¹³ 'If only my people would listen:
if Israel would but walk in my ways,
- ¹⁴ 'I would soon put down their enemies:
and turn my hand against their adversaries.
- ¹⁵ 'Those that hate the Lord would cringe before him:
and their punishment would last for ever.
- ¹⁶ 'But Israel I would feed with the finest wheat:
and satisfy you with honey from the rocks.'

2nd Reading

Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16

- ¹ Let mutual love continue.
- ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.
- ⁴ Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.
- ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'
- ⁶ So we can say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?'
- ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
- ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.
- ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.
- ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel

Luke 14.1, 14.7–14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸ 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'