



St John the Baptist, Catford & Downham Team Ministry
The 16th Sunday after Trinity
 20th September 2026



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Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

1st Reading: Jonah 3.10 – 4.11

A reading from the book of Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.

² He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD!

Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning;

for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.'

⁴ And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'

⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die.

He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

⁹ But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.'

¹⁰ Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.

¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms: 145.1-8

Refrain:

I will magnify thee, O God, my King :
and I will praise thy Name for ever and ever.

¹¹ I will magnify thee, O God, my King :
 and I will praise thy Name for ever and ever.

² Every day will I give thanks unto thee : and praise thy Name for ever and ever. **R**

³ Great is the Lord, and marvellous worthy to be praised : there is no end of his greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise thy works unto another : and declare thy power. **R**

⁵ As for me, I will be talking of thy worship : thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works;

⁶ So that men shall speak of the might of thy marvellous acts : and I will also tell of thy greatness. **R**

⁷ The memorial of thine abundant kindness shall be shewed : and men shall sing of thy righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful : long-suffering and of great goodness. **R**

2nd Reading: Philippians 1.21-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer.

²³ I am hard pressed between the two:

my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;

²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,

²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well –

³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20.1-16

We repeat the Gospel acclamation:
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.
Glorify to you O, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

¹ 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place;

⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around;

and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"

⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us."

He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,

¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?"

¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Notices

Harvest Sunday is 4th October. We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Foodbank. In the afternoon is our **Pet Service** at 3pm.

St John's WhatsApp prayer group- speak to Anne-Marie or Shea to join.

Volunteers appreciated to help once a month with Children's Church or Youth Church. Speak to Cynthia or Shea for details.

To support the church financially, speak to Amos about joining our parish giving scheme.

Prayers

For healing and protection for: Bevin Scott, Lloyd Page, Cameron, Joyce Howard, Gabriel Solomon, Laura Verlander, Eunice, Youngson, Pelu Thomas, Alison Marrett, Dwayne, Eric, Annie, Beverley, Glyn, Drew Spikes, Ruth Bennett, Bilki, Marcel, Leila, Theresa.

For those departed this life including. Marianne Nandu, Carole Benchaquor, and those with an anniversary of a death at this time including Joan Wardell, Faye Beedell, & Maud Miller.

Church Diary

Prayer chapel open:
7.30-5.30pm Weekdays
9.30-5.30pm Weekends

16th Sunday after Trinity (20th)
10.30am Sung Mass with Children's Church & Youth Church

Monday 21st Matthew, Apostle
7.30am Morning Prayer (MP)
5pm Evensong (ES)

Tuesday 22nd 7.30am MP.
8.30am said Mass. 5pm ES.

Wednesday 23rd Ember Day
7.30am MP. 10am Said Mass followed by Bible Study. 5pm ES

Thursday 24th
7.30am MP.
12.30pm Senior Social Club. 5pm ES

Friday 25th
Lancelot Andrewes, writer, 1626
7.30am MP. 10am Said Mass at St Barnabas. 1pm Recital.

17th Sunday after Trinity (27th)
10.30am Sung Mass

Any queries contact:

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