

# Readings and Prayers for 8 August 2021: TRINITY 10 FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (2): PEACE & FAITHFULNESS

## Isaiah 65:17-19,21-25

*Through the prophet, God offers his people a vision of the future.*

<sup>17</sup> 'See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They will not labour in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,' says the LORD.

## Revelation 7:9-17

*This part of John's vision focuses on the righteous in heaven.*

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?' <sup>14</sup> I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

## Matthew 25:1-13

*This parable comes in the last section of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's Gospel.*

Jesus said, <sup>1</sup> 'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" <sup>7</sup> Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." <sup>9</sup> "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." <sup>10</sup> But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!" <sup>12</sup> But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." <sup>13</sup> Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

## Collect

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.