

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, 20TH JULY 2025

Amos 8:1-12

This is what the Lord God showed me—a basket of summer fruit. ² He said, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A basket of summer fruit.’ Then the Lord said to me,

‘The end has come upon my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by.

³ The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,’ says the Lord God;

‘the dead bodies shall be many,
cast out in every place. Be silent!’

⁴ Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, ‘When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practise deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸ Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

⁹ On that day, says the Lord God,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on all loins,
and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
and the end of it like a bitter day.

¹¹ The time is surely coming, says the Lord God,
when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the Lord.

¹² They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord,
but they shall not find it.

Psalm 52 (page 275 in the Prayer Book)

Why, you that are powerful, do you boast all the day long:

Of mischief done to those that are faithful to God.

You contrive destroying slanders:

Your tongue is like a sharpened razor, it cuts deceitfully.

You have loved evil, and not good:

To tell lies, rather than to speak the truth.

You love all words that may do hurt:

And every deceit of the tongue.

But God will destroy you utterly:

He will snatch you away and pluck you out of your dwelling,

he will uproot you from the land of the living.

The righteous shall see it, and fear:

They shall laugh you to scorn, and say.

‘Here is the one who did not take God for strength:

But trusted to the abundance of riches, and found strength in slander.’

As for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God:

I will trust in the goodness of God for ever and ever.

I will always give you thanks, for this was your doing:

I will glorify your name before the faithful, for it is good to praise you.

Colossians 1:15-29

The Supremacy of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.