

# THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'God's most mighty protection'



Today's Collect prays that 'through God's most mighty protection ... we may be preserved in body and soul'. This is a prayer asking, not just for personal safety, but that God's unflinching care will enable us to do 'the works of his commandments'. Someone else put it like this: 'Lord, keep me under your protection till my work is done, and in your service till my life shall end.'

## The Gathering

### THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**And also with you.** (1 Tim. 1:2)

(A HYMN may be sung)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'**

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

**In your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

(Ps. 16:1, 11)

### PRAYER

Loving Father, who on a day like this, the first day of the week, raised your Son Jesus Christ from death to life, raise us up from the darkness of our sins to praise you with all your saints.

Send your Spirit upon us that our lives may be renewed in love for Jesus' sake.

**Amen.**

(SONGS may be sung)

\* \* \* \* \*

### PENITENCE

Remembering that sin damages our relationships, let us bring our lives into the pure light of God that he may cleanse us:

If we walk in the light,

**as God himself is in the light,**

we have fellowship with one another,

**and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.** (1 John 1:7)

Gracious God, we pretend to be good when we are not ...

How quick we are to find fault in others.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful Lord,

we often turn our backs on those who need us. How slow we are to do good.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy God,

we often place our needs and desires above everything else.

How reluctant we are to seek your will.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or RESPONSES may be used)

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

### THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### THE SERMON

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in God:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The Apostles' Creed)

(A HYMN may be sung)

## The Prayers

### INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

We bring to you, Father God, the needs of all people, for whose salvation you sent your Son Jesus Christ:

We pray for our Queen and government, and the leaders of the nations ... We think of people divided by national enmity, religious intolerance, or racial prejudice ... Lord Jesus, where there is hatred, **let me sow love.**

We pray for husbands and wives, parents and children, employers and employees ... We think of families, communities and work places where relationships have broken down ...

Lord Jesus, where there is injury, **let me sow pardon.**

We pray for bishop N., for all who teach the Christian faith, and for the life of our Church ... We think of those whose faith is being sorely tested ...

Lord Jesus, where there is doubt **let me sow faith.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who

have died ... We think of those who are overshadowed by loss or loneliness ... We pray for all in need ... We pray for their families and friends, doctors, nurses and carers.

Lord Jesus, where there is despair, **let me give hope.**

We think of ourselves, our self-centredness, our faltering attempts to serve you ... Lord Jesus, **make us channels of your peace and witnesses of your Kingdom. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, be thou a bright flame before me.

Be thou a guiding star above me.

Be thou a smooth path below me.

Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me.

Today – tonight – and forever. **Amen.**

(St Columba)

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)