

**Sunday 10 October 2021,
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Collect for this week:

Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for this week:

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

St Francis, who we celebrated last week, understood that the human search for God is ongoing and costly. While God's love is infinite, our own is prone to putting up boundaries and setting limits. The prophet Amos, in this Sunday's first reading, is clear that to seek the Lord involves breaking down those barriers to treat colleagues, neighbours and strangers with equal compassion and care. The Psalmist also searches for the presence of God among the mess and muddle of daily living, calling on the Lord to bridge the gap between earth and heaven. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews is seeking a God who understands the human condition and finds this God in Jesus, who lived as one of us. The Gospel offers us Mark's version of last week's passage from Matthew, reminding us that sacrifice and attention to the needs of others are both essential if we are to put our hands in the hand of our Creator and be drawn into the eternal Kingdom.

Holy and blessed God,
you feed us with the body and blood of your Son
and fill us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings next week:

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33
Harvest Festival