

# Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

17 September 2023 Anno Domini

## INTROIT

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

**Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all the day.**

**Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my plea for grace.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

*(From Ps. 86)*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## GRADUAL

**It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in man.**

**It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes.**

*(Ps. 118:8-9)*

## VERSE

## Old Testament: 1 Kings 17:8-16

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” <sup>13</sup>And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” <sup>15</sup>And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

## Epistle: Galatians 5:25-6:10

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. <sup>27</sup>Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>28</sup>Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>29</sup>For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>30</sup>But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>31</sup>For each will have to bear his own load. <sup>32</sup>One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one

sows, that will he also reap. <sup>34</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>35</sup>And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>36</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. <sup>25</sup>Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”