**Bible Sunday – 25th October 2020**

**Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;   
the gospel of a Saviour’s name,  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.  
  
Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,   
not in a royal house or hall,   
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.  
  
Tell of his death at Calvary,   
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suff’ring on the cross,  
for all he loved his life he gave.  
  
Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
empty the tomb, for he was free;   
he broke the pow’r of death and hell   
that we might share his victory.  
  
Tell of his reign at God’s right hand,   
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church,  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.  
  
Now we rejoice to name him King,   
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.   
This gospel-message we proclaim,  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Collect / Prayer of the Day**

Blessed Lord,

who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:

help us so to hear them,

to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them

that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast

       the hope of everlasting life,

which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

or Merciful God,

teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,

that trusting in your word and obeying your will

we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Reading 1: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-12**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen’, lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, ‘Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.’ And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:30-35**

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**Hymn: Lord, thy word abideth,  
and our footsteps guideth;  
who its truth believeth  
light and joy receiveth.**

**When our foes are near us,  
then thy word doth cheer us,  
word of consolation,  
message of salvation.**

**When the storms are o'er us,  
and dark clouds before us,  
then its light directeth  
and our way protecteth.**

**Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure,  
by thy word imparted  
to the simple-hearted?**

**Word of mercy, giving  
succour to the living;  
word of life, supplying  
comfort to the dying.**

**O that we discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
evermore be near thee!**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

God of all grace,

your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry

with the bread of his life

and the word of his kingdom:

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness

sustain us by your true and living bread;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Hymn: You shall go out with joy  
and be let forth with peace,  
and the mountains and the hills  
shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
and the trees of the field  
shall clap, shall clap their hands.**

**And the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
and you’ll go out with joy.**