**Sentence**

‘Is not my word like fire,’ says the Lord, ‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’

***Jeremiah 23.29***

**Collect**

Everliving God,

increase in us your gift of faith,

that, forsaking sin and all that hinders us,

we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

**The First Reading is from Isaiah 5: 1-7**

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God***

**Psalm 80:1-2; 8-19**

**1**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you that led Joseph like a flock:

 **you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,**

 **shine out in glory;**

**2**Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

 **stir up your power, and come to save us.**

**8**You brought a vine out of Egypt:

 **you drove out the nations, and planted it in.**

**9**You cleared the ground before it:

 **and it struck root and filled the land.**

**10**The hills were covered with its shadow:

 **and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.**

**11**It stretched out its branches to the sea:

 **and its tender shoots to the Great River.**

**12**Why then have you broken down its walls:

 **so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?**

**13**The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:

 **and the locusts from the wild places devour it.**

**14**Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:

 **look down from heaven, and see.**

**15**Bestow your care upon this vine:

 **the stock which your own right hand has planted.**

**16**As for those that burn it with fire and cut it down:

 **let them perish at the rebuke of your countenance.**

**17**Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:

 **on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

**18**And so we shall not turn back from you:

 **give us life, and we will call upon your name.**

**19**Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

 **show us the light of your countenance,**

 **and we shall be saved.**

**The Second Reading is from Hebrews 11: 29 – 12:2**

**29**By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. **30**By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. **31**By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. **32**And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33**who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, **34**quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. **35**Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. **36**Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37**They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— **38**of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. **39**Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, **40**since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. **1**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2**looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God***

*Priest:* *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 12: 49-59**

**49**‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50**I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! **51**Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! **52**From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; **53**they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’ **54**He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. **55**And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. **56**You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? **57**‘And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? **58**Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. **59**I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**🙏** Please pray for healing blessings for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, and their families, especially those who have asked us to intercede on their behalf – *David, Mick,* *Cynthia,* *Emmaly,* *Kenneth*, *Imogen, Janet, Lynton, Ida, Enid, Mary, Tim*, *Eliza, Elizabeth, Jim, Joan, James G., Paul, Therese, Max, Maureen, Merlin Morgan, Georgina, Samantha, Millie and Sophie,* and give thanks for healing blessings received. Pray for those who are in need about whom only God knows and give thanks for His presence with them.

***Please pray for those who have died recently*** as a result of war and terrorism, natural disasters or domestic violence. We remember those whose Years Mind occurs at this time – *Charles Chapman and Chris Coulsey* and we remember also **our** loved ones who also are now resting in peace with you. Rest eternal grant to them oh Lord, *and let light perpetual shine upon them.* **🙏**



**NOTICES**

**Wednesday 20th August, 9.30am:** Holy Communion Service including Meditation and Prayers for healing, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

**Sunday 24th August, 9.30am:**  **Sung Eucharist for St Bartholomew’s Day**. The scripture readings will be Deuteronomy 18: 15-18; Psalm 145: 10-18; Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1: 45-51

**Wednesday 27th August:** St Catherine’s Executive meeting after the Church service.

**Admission to Holy Communion**: Please pray for Aluka and Dile Oguejiofor who are training to be admitted to Holy Communion at our Sunday service on the 14th September.

**New Bible Study.** Our 8-week Bible Study based on the Gospel of St Mark continues on Tuesday evenings. It will run from 7.00-9.00pm on August 26; September 2, 9, 16 and 23rd; and October 7 and 14. (There will be no meeting on Tuesday September 30, as Rev’d Cathy will be away.) It is not too late to join. Please see Cathy if you are interested, or, just come along!! All welcome.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE.**

**St Catherine’s 60th Anniversary Service and Celebration.** Please out the date in your diary: Sunday 9th November, 2025 at 9.30am. Preacher: The Rev’d Bart O’Donovan. Invitations will be sent out shortly. The service will be followed by Morning Tea with Cake and Champagne and soft drink. In addition, a celebratory lunch will also be organised at the Midway Tavern at 12.30pm. All who wish to come to the lunch will buy their own meals and drinks. Closer to the time you will be asked to indicate whether you are coming to the lunch. Look out for posters to distribute and check our website for full information. If you have any questions, please direct them to Rev’d Cathy.

**DOWNTON ABBEY THE GRAND FINALE** is the film for Mothers’ Union Film Morning on ***Friday, 19th September*** at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood. Get your tickets from Linda or Betty.

**THANK YOU:** After many years of dedicated ministry in coordinating and distributing the parish directory, Joan Lewin has decided she would like to hand it over to another coordinator. I have approached Ann Inglis, one of our recent new parishioners who has come from the Salisbury Parish. Ann has many years’ experience of church governance and administration, and has been a faithful Anglican throughout her life. I am delighted that Ann has agreed to take on this roll from now on. Thank you, Ann for your willingness to serve and thank you Joan for your long and faithful service until now. We thank God for the committed, hard-working parishioners who “step up” to roles like this. Cathy