



Collect and Readings for Sunday 26 July 2026

Collect for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*E te Atua atawhai, kua manaakitia mātou e koe i tua atu i ō mātou moemoeā; kua whakatakotohia mai e koe ngā oati me ngā mate i tua atu i ō mātou mōhiotanga; āwhinatia mai mātou ki te whawhai me te īnoi hoki kia pareā atu ngā mate kia tutuki ai ō oati. Whakarongo ki tēnei īnoi i runga i tōu aroha. **Āmine.***

*God of mercy, you have blessed us beyond our dreams; you have set before us promises and perils beyond our understanding; help us to struggle and pray that the perils may be averted and your promises fulfilled. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.***

Old Testament Reading - 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."

⁶Solomon responded, "You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You've kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. ⁷And now, Lord my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David's place. But I'm young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. ⁸But I'm here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can't be numbered or counted due to its vast size. ⁹Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good

from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help.”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had made this request. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies—asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment— ¹² I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward.

Epistle Reading – Romans 8: 26-39

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don’t know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God’s will. ²⁸ We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn’t spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won’t he also freely give us all things with him?

³³ Who will bring a charge against God’s elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴ Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God’s right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ’s love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.^[a]

³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸ I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in

Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

³¹ He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. ³² It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. ⁴⁹ That’s the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, ⁵⁰ and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² Then he said to them, “Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest.”

[Translation: Common English Bible (CEB)]

Hymns for Sunday 26 July 2026

Opening Hymn:

We plough the fields and scatter

Verse 1

We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land
But it is fed and watered
By Gods almighty hand
He sends the snow in winter
The warmth to swell the grain
The breezes and the
sunshine
And soft refreshing rain

Chorus:

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above
Then thank the Lord O thank the Lord
For all His love*

Verse 2

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far
He paints the wayside flower
He lights the evening star
The wind and waves obey
Him By Him the birds are fed
Much more to us His children
He gives our daily bread

Chorus...

Verse 3

We thank You then O Father
For all things bright and good
The seed time and
the harvest
Our life our health our food
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Your love imparts
We come now Lord
to give You
Our humble thankful hearts

Chorus:

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above
Then thank the Lord O thank the Lord
For all His love*

Greg Leavers, Jane Montgomery Campbell, Johann
Abraham Peter Schulz, Matthias Claudius, Peter
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Gradual Hymn

Winter Carol

Verse 1

Stillness of the winter time
Beckoning to me,
Snow-capped mountains,
Glistening sun,
Hoar-frost on the trees.

Chorus:

*Warmth of laughter, warmth of love
Warm humility,
Praise the Maker of the time
And the Majesty
Allelu! Allelu! Allelu! Allelujah!*

Verse 2

Time for skiing, time for being
Joyous with delight.
Time to ponder, wonder, welcome
Every day and night.

Chorus:

Verse 3

Celebrate the winter time,
Longer days to come,
Celebrate with hope and joy
Each and every one!

Offertory Hymn:
[I will give thanks to thee](#)

Verse

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great
Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Chorus

*Be exalted O God
above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted O God
above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth*

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During Communion:
[In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful](#)

"In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful. In the Lord, I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid! Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near."

Closing Hymn:
[Now the Green Blade Riseth](#)

Verse 1

Now the green blade riseth,
from the buried grain,

Wheat that in dark earth
many days has lain;
Love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
Love is come again
like wheat that springeth green.

Verse 2

In the grave they laid Him,
Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never
would awake again,
Laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again
like wheat that springeth green.

Verse 3

Forth He came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days
in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead
the risen One is seen:
Love is come again
like wheat that springeth green.

Verse 4

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us
back to life again,
Fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again
like wheat that springeth green.

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