

Collect and Readings for Sunday 27 September 2026

Collect for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

E te Atua, nāu i hōmai he wāhi noho i roto i tēnei ao engari ehara i te marae mō ake tonu atu. Āwhinatia mai mātou, e haere tapuwae nei, kia noho pakari, me te mōhio anō he haerenga mutunga kua whakapaingia mai e te Karaiti he tino tauranga mō mātou. E inoi ana mātou i roto i a Īhu Karaiti tō mātou Kaiwhakaora. **Āmine.**

God, you have given us a lodging in this world but not an abiding city. Help us, as a pilgrim people, to endure hardness, knowing that at the end of our journey Christ has prepared a place for us. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

The Lord said: ² Ezekiel, I hear the people of Israel using the old saying,

“Sour grapes eaten by parents
leave a sour taste in the mouths
of their children.”

³ Now tell them that I am the Lord God, and as surely as I live, that saying will no longer be used in Israel. ⁴ The lives of all people belong to me—parents as well as children. However, only those who sin will be put to death.

²⁵ You people of Israel accuse me of being unfair! But listen—I'm not unfair; you are! ²⁶ If good people start doing evil, they must be put to death, because they have sinned. ²⁷ And if wicked people start doing right, they will save themselves from punishment. ²⁸ They will think about what they've done and stop sinning, and so they won't be put to death. ²⁹ But you still say that I am unfair. You are the ones who have done wrong and are unfair!

³⁰ I will judge each of you for what you've done. So stop sinning, or else you will certainly be punished. ³¹ Give up your evil ways and start thinking pure thoughts. And be faithful to me! Do you really want to be put to death for

your sins? ³² I, the Lord God, don't want to see that happen to anyone. So stop sinning and live!

Epistle Reading – Philippians 2: 1-13

2 Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God's Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. ² Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. ³ Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. ⁴ Care about them as much as you care about yourselves ⁵ and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

⁶ Christ was truly God.

But he did not try to remain
equal with God.

⁷ Instead he gave up everything
and became a slave,
when he became
like one of us.

⁸ Christ was humble.

He obeyed God and even died
on a cross.

⁹ Then God gave Christ
the highest place
and honoured his name
above all others.

¹⁰ So at the name of Jesus
everyone will bow down,
those in heaven, on earth,
and under the earth.

¹¹ And to the glory
of God the Father
everyone will openly agree,
“Jesus Christ is Lord!”

¹² My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to



discover what it really means to be saved. ¹³ God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21: 23-32

²³ Jesus had gone into the temple and was teaching when the chief priests and the leaders of the people came up to him. They asked, “What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus answered, “I have just one question to ask you. If you answer it, I will tell you where I got the right to do these things. ²⁵ Who gave John the right to baptize? Was it God in heaven or merely some human being?”

They thought it over and said to each other, “We can't say God gave John this right. Jesus will ask us why we didn't believe John. ²⁶ On the other hand, these people think John was a prophet, and we are afraid of what they might do to us. That's why we can't say it was merely some human who gave John the right to baptize.” ²⁷ So they told Jesus, “We don't know.”

Jesus said, “Then I won't tell you who gave me the right to do what I do.”

²⁸ Jesus said: I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think. The father went to the older son and said, “Go work in the vineyard today!” ²⁹ His son told him he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn't go. ³¹ Which one of the sons obeyed his father?

“The older one,” the chief priests and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them: You can be sure tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! ³² When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him. But these evil people did believe. And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe.

Contemporary English Version

Hymns for Sunday 27 September 2026

Opening Hymn:

At the name of Jesus

(1) At the name of Jesus
Every knee shall bow
Every tongue confess Him
King of glory now
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word

(2) Humbled for a season
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came
Faithfully He bore it
Spotless to the last
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed

(3) Bore it up triumphant
With its human light
Through all ranks of creatures
To the central height
To the throne of Godhead
To the Father's breast
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest

(4) In your hearts enthrone Him
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy
All that is not true
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour

Let His will enfold you
In its light and power

(5) We know this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
With His Father's glory
With His angel-train
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now

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Gradual Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.***

(1) Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings. **[Refrain]**

(2) The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. **[Refrain]**

(3) The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
He made them every one.

[Refrain]

4 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

[Refrain]

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Offertory Hymn:

There is A Redeemer

(1) There is a Redeemer
Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
Holy One

Chorus

***Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done***

(2) Jesus my Redeemer
name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
O for sinners slain [**Chorus**]

(3) When I stand in glory
I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place [**Chorus**]

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During Communion:

Jesus Stand Among Us

(1) Jesus stand among us
At the meeting of our lives.
Be the sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.
For Jesus we love you,
and so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity
and take away our fear.

(2) So to you we're gathering
Out of each and every land;
Christ the love between us,
At the joining of our hands.
O Jesus we love you,
and so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fear.

(3) Jesus stand among us
At the breaking of the bread;
Join us as one body
As we worship you, our Head.
O Jesus we love you,
and so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fear.

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Closing Hymn:

You Are The Lord Of Everything

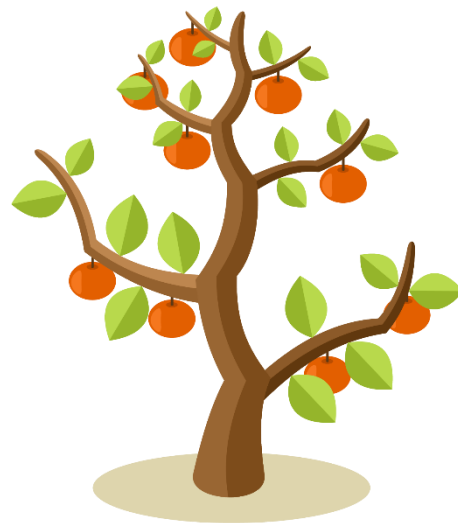
(1) You plant us in your ground,
And water us with care.
You send your Son
to warm our hearts
That we may then declare;
You are the Lord of everything,
Of summer, winter, autumn, spring.

(2) Our tiny leaves unfold,
New possibilities.
We grow in stature through your love,
Becoming fruitful trees.
You are the Lord of everything,
Of summer, winter, autumn, spring.

(3) And when our fruit is ripe,
Our promise is fulfilled,
You gather up our giftedness,
Your barn of love to fill.
You are the Lord of everything,
Of summer, winter, autumn, spring.

(4) In you we live and move,
In you we learn to love,
In you we have our very being,
In union with your Son.
You are the Lord of everything,
Of summer, winter, autumn, spring.

"You Are Lord of Everything" words and music by Paul
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