Wednesday 21st July 2021 Trinity 7

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Exodus 16.1–5, 9–15

A reading from the book of Exodus

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." '

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Psalm 78.17–31

17 Yet for all this they sinned more against him ◆
and defied the Most High in the wilderness.

18 They tested God in their hearts ◆
and demanded food for their craving.

19 They spoke against God and said, ◆
'Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?

20 'He struck the rock indeed, so that the waters gushed out and the streams overflowed, ◆
but can he give bread or provide meat for his people?'

21 When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; ◆
a fire was kindled against Jacob and his anger went out against Israel,

22 For they had no faith in God ◆
and put no trust in his saving help.

23 So he commanded the clouds above ◆
and opened the doors of heaven.

24 He rained down upon them manna to eat ◆
and gave them the grain of heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; ◆
he sent them food in plenty.

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens ◆
and led out the south wind by his might.

27 He rained flesh upon them as thick as dust ◆
and winged fowl like the sand of the sea.

28 He let it fall in the midst of their camp ◆
and round about their tents.

29 So they ate and were well filled, ◆
for he gave them what they desired.

30 But they did not stop their craving; ◆
their food was still in their mouths,

31 When the anger of God rose against them, ◆
and slew their strongest men and felled the flower of Israel.

Gospel

Matthew 13.1–9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Additional Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord