

## Readings – St Cuthbert’s Day Service 10-09-2023

### Sentence

To all whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Jeremiah 1.76

### Collect

Almighty God,  
who called your servant Cuthbert from following the flock  
to follow your Son and to be a Shepherd of your people: in your  
mercy, grant that we, following his example, may bring those  
who are lost home to your fold; 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. **Amen.**

## **Ezekiel 34: 11-16**

Our first reading is taken from Ezekiel, Chapter 34 Beginning at Verse 11

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

## Psalm 23

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 23. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> **He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Our second reading is taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Book of Corinthians, Chapter 6, beginning at Verse 1

<sup>6</sup> As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

## **Matthew 18: 12-14**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 18, beginning at Verse 12, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, <sup>12</sup>“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**