

Sunday

10th September 2023
2nd Sunday of Creationtide

COLLECT

God our Father,
you never cease the work you
have begun and prosper with your
blessing all human labour: make
us wise and faithful stewards of
your gifts that we may serve the
common good, maintain the fabric
of our world and seek that justice
where all may share the good
things you pour upon us; 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

Job 38. 1-18

Then the Lord answered Job out of
the whirlwind:

'Who is this that darkens counsel
by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man, I will
question you, and you shall
declare to me. Where were you
when I laid the foundation of the
earth? Tell me, if you have
understanding. Who determined
its measurements - surely you
know! Or who stretched the line
upon it? On what were its bases
sunk, or who laid its cornerstone
when the morning stars sang
together and all the heavenly
beings shouted for joy?

Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?
- when I made the clouds its
garment, and thick darkness its
swaddling band, and prescribed
bounds for it, and set bars and
doors, and said "Thus far shall you
come, and no farther, and here
shall your proud waves be
stopped"?

Have you commanded the
morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its
place, so that it might take hold of
the skirts of the earth, and the
wicked be shaken out of it? It is
changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment. Light
is withheld from the wicked, and
their uplifted arm is broken.

Have you entered into the springs
of the sea, or walked in the
recesses of the deep? Have the
gates of death been revealed to
you, or have you seen the gates of
deep darkness? Have you
comprehended the expanse of the
earth? Declare, if you know all this.

PSALM

Psalm 139 1-14

R Search me out, O God, and
know my heart.

O Lord, you have searched me out
and known me; you know my
sitting down and my rising up; you
discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my
resting place and are acquainted
with all my ways.

For there is not a word on my
tongue, but you, O Lord, know it
altogether.

You encompass me behind and
before and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful
for me, so high that I cannot attain
it. **R**

Where can I go then from your
spirit? Or where can I flee from
your presence?

If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you
are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of
the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead
me, your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will
cover me and the light around me
turn to night,'

Even darkness is no darkness with
you; the night is as clear as the
day; darkness and light to you are
both alike. **R**

For you yourself created my
inmost parts; you knit me together
in my mother's womb.

I thank you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made; marvellous are
your works, my soul knows well.

My frame was not hidden from
you, when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the
earth.

Your eyes beheld my form, as yet
unfinished; already in your book
were all my members written, as
day by day they were fashioned

when as yet there was none of
them.

How deep are your counsels to
me, O God! How great is the sum
of them!

If I count them, they are more in
number than the sand, and at the
end, I am still in your presence. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1.18-25

For the wrath of God is revealed
from heaven against all
ungodliness and wickedness of
those who by their wickedness
suppress the truth. For what can
be known about God is plain to
them, because God has shown it
to them. Ever since the creation of
the world his eternal power and
divine nature, invisible though they
are, have been understood and
seen through the things he has
made. So they are without excuse;
for though they knew God, they
did not honour him as God or give
thanks to him, but they became
futile in their thinking, and their
senseless minds were darkened.
Claiming to be wise, they became
fools; and they exchanged the
glory of the immortal God for
images resembling a mortal human
being or birds or four footed
animals or reptiles. Therefore God
gave them up in the lusts of their
hearts to impurity, to the degrading
of their bodies among themselves,
because they exchanged the truth
about God for a lie and
worshipped and served the
creature rather than the Creator,
who is blessed for ever! Amen

GOSPEL

Matthew 5 13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if
salt has lost its taste, how can its
saltiness be restored? It is no
longer good for anything, it is
thrown out and trampled under
foot. You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be
hidden. No one after lighting a
lamp puts it under the bushel
basket, but on the lampstand, and
it gives light to all in the house. In
the same way, let your light shine
before others, so that they may
see your good works and give
glory to your Father in heaven.