Sunday 25th October 2026
Bible Sunday

St Andrew's church, Folkingham

South Lafford and Billingborough Group of Parishes



Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Nehemiah 8.1-12

8 [1] all the people gathered together into the square
before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to
bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord
had given to Israel. [2] Accordingly, the priest Ezra
brought the law before the assembly, both men and
women and all who could hear with understanding.
This was on the first day of the seventh month. [3] He
read from it facing the square before the Water Gate
from early morning until midday, in the presence of
the men and the women and those who could
understand; and the ears of all the people were
attentive to the book of the law. [4] The scribe Ezra
stood on a wooden platform that had been made for
the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah,
Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his
right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah,
Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam
on his left hand. [5] And Ezra opened the book in the
sight of all the people, for he was standing above all
the people; and when he opened it, all the people
stood up. [6] Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great
God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen',
lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads
and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the
ground. [7] Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub,
Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah,
Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the
people to understand the law, while the people
remained in their places. [8] So they read from the
book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They
gave the sense, so that the people understood the
reading.
[9] And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the
priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the
people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the
Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the
people wept when they heard the words of the law.
[10] Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat
and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to
those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is
holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy
of the Lord is your strength.' [11] So the Levites stilled
all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy;
do not be grieved.' [12] And all the people went their
way to eat and drink and to send portions and to
make great rejoicing, because they had understood
the words that were declared to them.

Psalm 119.9-16

9 How shall young people cleanse their way
to keep themselves according to your word?
10 With my whole heart have I sought you;
O let me not go astray from your
commandments.
11 Your words have I hidden within my heart,
that I should not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
O teach me your statutes.
13 With my lips have I been telling
of all the judgements of your mouth.
14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your
testimonies
than in all manner of riches.
15 I will meditate on your commandments
and contemplate your ways.
16 My delight shall be in your statutes
and I will not forget your word.

Colossians 3.12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe
yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another
and, if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe
yourselves with love, which binds everything
together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of
Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were
called in the one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the
word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and
admonish one another in all wisdom; and with
gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and
spiritual songs to God. **17** And whatever you do, in
word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 24.30-35

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in
heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will
mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on
the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory.
31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet
call, and they will gather his elect from the four
winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you
know that summer is near. **33** So also, when you see
all these things, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. **34** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass
away until all these things have taken place.
35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words
will not pass away.