

Common Worship - **Morning Prayer Readings** -Church of England  
10th. Sunday after Trinity (Proper 14) Year C

**FIRST READING** either **Song of Solomon 8.5–7.**

*A reading from the Song of Solomon, chapter 8.*

Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?  
Under the apple tree I awakened you.  
There your mother was in labour with you; there she who bore you was in labour.  
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.  
If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

*For the Word of the LORD.*

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or **1 Maccabees 14.4–15**

*A reading from the first book of Maccabees chapter 14.*

The land had rest all the days of Simon.  
He sought the good of his nation;  
his rule was pleasing to them,  
as was the honour shown him, all his days.  
To crown all his honours he took Joppa for a harbour,  
and opened a way to the isles of the sea.  
He extended the borders of his nation,  
and gained full control of the country.  
He gathered a host of captives;  
he ruled over Gazara and Beth-zur and the citadel,  
and he removed its uncleanness from it;  
and there was none to oppose him.  
They tilled their land in peace;  
the ground gave its increase,  
and the trees of the plains their fruit.  
Old men sat in the streets;  
they all talked together of good things,  
and the youths put on splendid military attire.  
He supplied the towns with food,  
and furnished them with the means of defence,  
until his renown spread to the ends of the earth.  
He established peace in the land,  
and Israel rejoiced with great joy.  
All the people sat under their own vines and fig trees,  
and there was none to make them afraid.  
No one was left in the land to fight them,  
and the kings were crushed in those days.  
He gave help to all the humble among his people;  
he sought out the law,  
and did away with all the renegades and outlaws.  
He made the sanctuary glorious,  
and added to the vessels of the sanctuary.

*For the Word of the LORD.*

**SECOND READING**

**2 Peter 3.8–13**

*A reading from the second letter of Peter, Chapter 3.*

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness,  
but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish,  
but all to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise,  
and the elements will be dissolved with fire,  
and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,  
what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,  
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,  
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,  
and the elements will melt with fire?

But, in accordance with his promise,  
we wait for new heavens and a new earth,  
where righteousness is at home.

*For the Word of the LORD.*