

25TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

September 24 2017

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

PENITENTIAL RITE

The parable of the workers in the vineyard teaches us a lesson about the justice of God. 'Workers waiting to be hired' is a widespread phenomenon even in the modern world. One denarius for a twelve-hour work day was the standard pay at the time of Jesus. That the employer paid one denarius to even those who were called to work in the vineyard at the last hour of the day shows his sense of justice because one denarius would have been needed for a labourer and his family to manage the day's expenses. A parable is not a real story but a story with a beautiful message. This parable is about the kingdom of God. Applied to the kingdom of God the parable is about divine justice. God cares for all of us. Do we have the sense of justice? Do we treat our workers and others with justice? Do we pay sufficient remuneration for the work that we make them do? (Pause)

I confess to almighty God
Glory to God in the highest...

COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you...

FIRST READING

(These verses from Second Isaiah compare the thoughts and ways of God with those of human beings, and say that God's ways are higher than those of human beings).

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (55:6-9)

“Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The Word of the Lord

PSALM (145)

Response: **The Lord is close to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. R/

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. R/

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. R/

SECOND READING

(Paul tells the Philippians that he has no qualms to die and be in union with Christ, but shows also willingness to live so that the Philippians can benefit from his presence with them).

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians (1:20-24,27)

Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Alleluia! (Lk 19:38)

GOSPEL

(In the parable of the Good Employer, even the workers who put in much less hours of work received the same pay which was bemoaned by the workers).

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

The Gospel of the Lord

I believe in God,/....

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Cel: The prophecy of Isaiah that the thoughts and actions of God are immeasurably different from human ways finds an illustration in the parable of the workers in the vineyard. The workers who worked the whole day naturally expected more pay for more work. But the parable brings home the point that God cares for all, even the last arrival. Trusting in God's generosity, let us place our intentions before him, saying,

Response: **Lord, help us to think and act wisely.**

1. For the pope, the bishops and all the leaders that as administrators of the material and spiritual wealth of the Church they may try to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, we pray ... R/
 2. For the farming community who suffer great loss due to climatic change such as drought or unseasonal rains that adequate steps may be taken to redeem farmers who suffer on account of financial burdens, we pray ... R/
 3. That all Christians become aware of their Christian vocation and the pledge they have made to live by the values of the Gospel consisting of both Godly and neighbourly love, we pray ... R/
 4. For writers, editors, journalists and opinion makers who have the ability to form opinions and influence human minds that in their writing and speaking they may try to disseminate knowledge and build up character, we pray ... R/
 5. For all of us present in this Eucharistic assembly that enlightened by the Word of God we may pledge ourselves to help the needy in our neighbourhood, be they elderly, sick or neglected so that their joy of living may not be lost to anyone, we pray ... R/
- (Pray for community and personal needs)

Cel: God our Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus who through the parable of the workers in the vineyard has revealed the surprising manner in which you think and act that is in sharp contrast with our way of thinking and acting. Give us the grace that as a believing community we too many contribute our mite towards the alleviation of hunger and disease in the world. We make this prayer

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE III (Ordinary)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes. (Ps 118:4-5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord.

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