

The ones God has chosen to be made worthy through the work and the person of Jesus, they will be paid (profited) with eternal life. God is the owner of the vineyard in our parable. He does the hiring, He offers the wages. He finds the workers, some at daybreak, some at 9AM some at noon, 3PM and 5PM. They are all promised and receive the same pay. In the parable, we are shown lust, our desire for more, contrasted with the mercy of God. We don't really have the space to discuss all the parts of the parable, still it is interesting to note that God allows grumbling, then He ends it with the statement "do you begrudge my generosity?" We rejoice in salvation, even when given to our competition.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You that from Him Your whole family in Heaven and on Earth is named. We worship You for Your manifold wisdom, Your mighty works, and Your perfect Holiness. We especially praise You for our reconciliation to You through the suffering and death of Your dear Son. In the event of our being received in Him, You established and set in place the eternity of forgiveness in which we live. We, through faith in Him enter with confidence into Your presence to bring You our prayers and petitions.

Out of the infinite bounty of Your surpassing goodness, grant Your Spirit and grace, to we who stand in constant need of Your help and mercy. Bestow on us the intelligence that leads to a sense of Your majesty and power and the knowledge which is the foundation of all true wisdom. Unfold to us Your overflowing Love by providing for the wants and needs of this present life. Let Your mercy descend on us as the morning dew, giving us life and breath, health and contentment, and deliver us from every kind of danger to body or soul.

As You are able to do more than we are able to think of or ask for, according to the power that works in us, increase in us Your grace and enlarge our trust so that we will unfailingly come to You in prayer with believing hearts, asking You for all our wants and needs, but especially for Your mercy and deliverance. Give a special measure of Your power to those who are in sorrow or mourning, to those in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they will receive Your blessed aid. Although we have deserved nothing but your punishment and correction, help us receive that which comes to us through faith, knowing that You are Love and in all things You work for the good of the people of Your kingdom.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

These and the all things we should ask, but in our fear or ignorance did not, grant to us in the name of Jesus our Lord.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY

Chant Tone



Introit

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks
— giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

What shall I render | to the Lord*
for all His bene | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal — vation*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Precious in the sight | of the Lord*
is the death | of His saints.

O Lord, truly I am Your — servant;*
I am Your servant, the son of Your
maidservant; You have | loosed my
bonds.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks
— giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

(Antiphon, Psalm 116:17;
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16)

Collect of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, fear the Lord, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him | have no lack!
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: From all that is within us, O Lord, we bless Your Holy name. You forgive all our iniquities and heal our diseases. You redeem our life from destruction and crown us with loving kindness and tender mercies. For all these blessings, O Lord, we give You thanks. By Your Spirit help us to reflect Your mercy toward others. Make us confident that You will take our mistakes and turn them into blessings. Be with the lonely, comfort the sick and weary among us and bring the assurance of Your forgiveness to the penitent. This we ask in the name and for the sake of Him who taught us how to forgive, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS. Of all the possible topics for our Sunday's lessons to take up, sin and forgiveness must be among the more revealing. Our attitude toward forgiving others certainly belies our attitude toward receiving forgiveness from God. Peter ascertained that the (holy) number of seven times of forgiveness must be enough to never have to deal with a sinning brother again. Jesus says that we are to forgive 70 times 7, (or as often as repentance seeks forgiveness.) We are led to repentance for forgiveness by God, Who then freely forgives us. We can forgive others equally as often. We say a big thank you to everyone who has joined us for worship this day. The blending of our hearts and minds in praise of our risen Savior is the one thing that sets this place and this gathering of people apart from all other gatherings of peoples the world over.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Rely On The Lord

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 116:17;) Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16
Psalm 116 was written by David. This is one of David's general songs of thanksgiving. God forgave David all his sin and short comings. God kept David as the most blessed king, and David responded with great understanding and praise.

COLLECT

We are reminding God and ourselves, that we rely on the promise of His grace, in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation. This message is reflected in all our Propers.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 55:6-9

God's ways are highlighted in our Old Testament Lesson and in most of the book of Isaiah. God has compassion (mercy) on the wicked and promises to forgive or pardon them when they forsake their evil ways and thoughts. He offers forgiveness to all who repent. God has chosen to punish His Own Son or the sins of the people of the world. God refuses to show mercy toward His Only Begotten Son, just so that He can show mercy toward the repentant sinner. In that way, He is able to establish grace in the life of the penitent. We desire the death and destruction of our enemies. God worked to bring His enemies to repentance that in His grace they are brought to salvation.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

To avoid being murdered by Saul, David ran to the kingdom of one of Saul's enemies. To gain access, David pretended to be insane. After a time, David recognized his lack of faith and stopped. Psalm 34 celebrates the strength of the knowledge of God, no matter what happens God works it for good.

EPISTLE LESSON—Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Attitude is everything when it comes to our approach to people, when it comes to our approach to God. Often our thoughts are focused on lust, as we want what others have. Some members in Philippi thought that joy was evil. Paul told them that it is love, peace and joy that show forth the true relationship with God. We are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel, with love, peace and joy in all situations.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 20:1-16

Our reading for today is within a frame. It begins and ends with a statement of the first being last and the last first. (19:30 and 20:16) It is framed by the mind of God. Those who attempt to make themselves worthy of God will fail, for God doesn't count worthiness in any earthly measure.