

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Special Prayer for the day**

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and  
within us:  
open our eyes to your won-  
ders,  
that we may serve you with  
reverence  
and know your peace at our  
lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
**Amen**

**First Reading**  
**Philippians 1:21–30**

[21] For to me to live is  
Christ, and to die is gain.  
[22] If I am to live in the  
flesh, that means fruitful  
labor for me. Yet which I  
shall choose I cannot tell.  
[23] I am hard pressed  
between the two. My desire  
is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better.  
[24] But to remain in the  
flesh is more necessary on  
your account. [25] Con-  
vinced of this, I know that I  
will remain and continue  
with you all, for your pro-  
gress and joy in the faith,  
[26] so that in me you may  
have ample cause to glory in  
Christ Jesus, because of my  
coming to you again.

[27] Only let your manner  
of life be worthy of the gos-  
pel of Christ, so that  
whether I come and see you  
or am absent, I may hear of  
you that you are standing

firm in one spirit, with one  
mind striving side by side  
for the faith of the gospel,  
[28] and not frightened in  
anything by your opponents.  
This is a clear sign to them  
of their destruction, but of  
your salvation, and that  
from God. [29] For it has  
been granted to you that for  
the sake of Christ you  
should not only believe in  
him but also suffer for his  
sake, [30] engaged in the  
same conflict that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still  
have. (ESV)

*This is the word of the Lord*  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading**  
**Matthew 20:1–16**

Hear the gospel of our Lord  
according to Matthew  
**Glory to you or Lord.**

[1] “For the kingdom of  
heaven is like a master of a  
house who went out early in  
the morning to hire labour-  
ers for his vineyard. [2]  
After agreeing with the la-  
bourers for a denarius a day,  
he sent them into his vine-  
yard. [3] And going out  
about the third hour he saw  
others standing idle in the  
marketplace, [4] and to  
them he said, ‘You go into  
the vineyard too, and  
whatever is right I will give  
you.’ [5] So they went. Go-  
ing out again about the sixth  
hour and the ninth hour, he  
did the same. [6] And about

the eleventh hour he went  
out and found others stand-  
ing. And he said to them,  
‘Why do you stand here idle  
all day?’ [7] They said to  
him, ‘Because no one has  
hired us.’ He said to them,  
‘You go into the vineyard  
too.’ [8] And when evening  
came, the owner of the vine-  
yard said to his foreman,  
‘Call the labourers and pay  
them their wages, beginning  
with the last, up to the first.’  
[9] And when those hired  
about the eleventh hour  
came, each of them received  
a denarius. [10] Now when  
those hired first came, they  
thought they would receive  
more, but each of them also  
received a denarius. [11]  
And on receiving it they  
grumbled at the master of  
the house, [12] 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.’ [13]  
But he replied to one of  
them, ‘Friend, I am doing  
you no wrong. Did you not  
agree with me for a den-  
arius? [14] Take what be-  
longs to you and go. I  
choose to give to this last  
worker as I give to you. [15]  
Am I not allowed to do  
what I choose with what be-  
longs to me? Or do you be-  
grudge my generosity?’ [16]  
So the last will be first, and  
the first last.” (ESV)

This is the gospel of the  
Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Final Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you have taught us through  
your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of  
the law:  
grant that we may love you  
with our whole heart  
and our neighbours as  
ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

**Amen.**

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