

Readings 20th September 2020

Collect Prayer – 15th after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 145 1-8

^jI will extol you, my God and ^kKing,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you
'and praise your name forever and ever.

³ ^mGreat is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his ⁿgreatness is unsearchable.

⁴ ^oOne generation shall commend your works to
another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵ On ^pthe glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶ They shall speak of ^qthe might of your awesome deed
s,
and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your ^rabundant
goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is ^sgracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

Philippians 1. 21-30

²¹ For to me ^mto 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 ⁿI am hard pressed between the two. My desire is ^oto depart and ^pbe with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ ^qConvinced of this, ^rI know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your ^sprogress and ^tjoy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me ^uyou may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only ^vlet your manner of life be ^wworthy⁸ of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you ^xthat you are standing firm in one spirit, with ^yone mind ^zstriving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is ^aa clear sign to them of their destruction, but ^bof your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For ^cit has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also ^bsuffer for his sake, engaged in the same ^dconflict that ^eyou saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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Matthew 20. 1-16

Labourers in the Vineyard

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius¹ a day, he sent them into his vineyard.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. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.⁶ And ^gabout the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. 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 ^hwhen evening came, the owner of the vineyard 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 ⁱthe scorching heat.'¹³ But he replied to one of them, ^k"Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?¹⁴ Take ^lwhat belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you."¹⁵ ^mAm I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or ⁿdo you begrudge my generosity?"¹⁶ So ^othe last will be first, and the first last."

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God