

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Midweek 20th August, Trinity 9

The Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Judges 9:6-15

A reading from the book of Judges.

Then all the lords of Shechem and all Beth-millo came together, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar at Shechem.

When it was told to Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and cried aloud and said to them, 'Listen to me, you lords of Shechem, so that God may listen to you.

The trees once went out to anoint a king over themselves. So they said to the olive tree, "Reign over us."

The olive tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my rich oil by which gods and mortals are honoured, and go to sway over the trees?"

Then the trees said to the fig tree, "You come and reign over us."

But the fig tree answered them, "Shall I stop producing my sweetness and my delicious fruit, and go to sway over the trees?"

Then the trees said to the vine, "You come and reign over us."

But the vine said to them, "Shall I stop producing my wine that cheers gods and mortals, and go to sway over the trees?"

So all the trees said to the bramble, "You come and reign over us."

And the bramble said to the trees, "If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 21:1-6

1. The king shall rejoice in your strength, O Lord; • how greatly shall he rejoice in your salvation!

2. You have given him his heart's desire • and have not denied the request of his lips.

3. For you come to meet him with blessings of goodness • and set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

4. He asked of you life and you gave it him, • length of days, for ever and ever.

5. His honour is great because of your salvation; • glory and majesty have you laid upon him.

6. You have granted him everlasting felicity • and will make him glad with joy in your presence.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Matthew.

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"

They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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 the usual daily wage?"

Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.