THE TWENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SUNDAY

24th September, 2023

First Reading **Isa. 55:6-13**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor 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.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. This is the word of the Lord. ℟ **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm **Ps. 144 (145)**

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

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
You are great, Lord, highly to be praised,
your greatness cannot be measured. ℟

2. You are kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good you are, Lord, to all,
compassionate to all your creatures. ℟

3. You are just in all your ways
and loving in all your deeds.
You are close to all who call you,
who call on you from their hearts. ℟

Second Reading **Phil. 1:19-26**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ

I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 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 for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL **Mtt. 20:1-15**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples:"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 marketplace; 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?'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord ℟ **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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Printed at the Anglican Benedictine Abbey, Camperdown. 3260. www.anglicanbenedictine.org.au