

**Prayer at Home**  
**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**September 20, 2020**

***Notes/Instructions***

- This may be prayed alone or as a family depending on how many people are in your home.
- You may gather at your kitchen table or at a prayer space in your home.
- Individuals may take turns proclaiming the readings.
- If you have a candle, family Bible, crucifix, etc., you may place them in the middle of your table/prayer space.
- If you have never led prayer before, do not worry. God always appreciates our efforts.
- You may remain seated for the entire prayer, but if you have children it may be helpful to stand for the Gather, Gospel Reading, and Sending Forth. If you are able, you may wish to kneel to pray the Spiritual Communion together.

***Gather***

**Prayer Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
O God,  
who founded all the commands of your sacred Law  
upon love of you and of our neighbor,  
grant that, by keeping your precepts,  
we may merit to attain eternal life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

***Listen***

**First Reading:** A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 55: 6-9)  
(*seeking the Lord*)

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.  
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth,

so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

(Psalm 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18)

**Our response is: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

**The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

The LORD is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.  
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

**Second Reading:** A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

(Philippians 1: 2-c-24, 27a)

*(spreading the Gospel)*

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

If I go on living in the flesh,  
that means fruitful labor for me.

And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two.

I long to depart this life and be with Christ,  
for that is far better.

Yet that I remain in the flesh  
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.  
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, alleluia.**

**Gospel:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
(*the laborers in the vineyard*)

(Matthew 20: 1-16a)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:  
“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner  
who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.  
After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage,  
he sent them into his vineyard.  
Going out about nine o’clock,  
the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace,  
and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard,  
and I will give you what is just.’  
So they went off.  
And he went out again around noon,  
and around three o’clock, and did likewise.  
Going out about five o’clock,  
the landowner found others standing around, and said to them,  
‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’  
They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’  
He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’  
When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,  
‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay,  
beginning with the last and ending with the first.’  
When those who had started about five o’clock came,  
each received the usual daily wage.  
So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,  
but each of them also got the usual wage.  
And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,  
‘These last ones worked only one hour,  
and you have made them equal to us,

who bore the day's burden and the heat.'  
He said to one of them in reply,  
'My friend, I am not cheating you.  
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?  
Take what is yours and go.  
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?  
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?  
Are you envious because I am generous?'  
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Link to video that reflects on this Gospel reading and how "life's not fair.":*

[https://youtu.be/Rat\\_wLLUnCw](https://youtu.be/Rat_wLLUnCw)

### ***Respond***

**Key Passage:** [The landowner] said, "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?" (Matthew 20: 14-15)

### **Reflection Questions**

*Adult:* Which has deepened your faith more—being treated justly or being treated with love and care? Who needs you to treat them with care this week?

*Child:* Think of a time when you were very fair, then think of a time when you were very generous. Which felt better?

**Prayer Leader:** Uniting our prayers as one we pray together the words Jesus gave us:  
Our Father . . .

### **Spiritual Communion**

*(Pray this prayer together)*

**Prayer Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

***Sending Forth***

**Prayer Leader:**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down on us and remain on us forever. **Amen.**