Sunday 20th September 2026 16th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear
the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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.

or

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

Readings

New Testament Reading

Philippians 1.21–end

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.
22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer.
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 for you.
25 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,
26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.
27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,
28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is Gods doing.
29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-
30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 20.1–16

20 For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers
for his vineyard.
2 After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.
3 When he went out about nine oclock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place;
4 and he said to them, You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right. So they went.
5 When he went out again about noon and about three oclock, he did the same.
6 And about five oclock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, Why are
you standing here idle all day?
7 They said to him, Because no one has hired us. He said to them, You also go into the vineyard.
8 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.
9 When those hired about five oclock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.
10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received
the usual daily wage.
11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,
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 the
usual daily wage?
14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.
15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am
generous?
16 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

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.

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