

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY

ORDINARY Season of the Year A

First Reading † Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is to be found,
call to him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways
and the sinful their thoughts.
Let them turn back to the Lord
that he may have mercy on them,
to our God, for he is rich in forgiveness.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts
and your ways are not my ways – declares the Lord.

For as the heavens are high above earth
so are my ways above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 144:2-3.8-9.17-18

The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The Lord is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
who call on him in sincerity.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading † Philippians 1:20b-24.27

For me to live is Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death an advantage. For if it is to be life in the flesh, this is the fruit of my work, and I do not know which I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be released and to be with Christ, and this is far better – and yet to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

But you must always behave in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or whether I only hear all about you in my absence, I shall know that you are standing firm and united in spirit, competing together with a single aim, for belief in the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † cf Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel ‡ Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now the kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out in mid-morning he saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them,

“You go to the vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.”

So they went. At about noon and again in mid-afternoon, he went out and did the same. Then not long before sunset he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them,

“Why have you been standing here idle all day?”

They said to him,

“Because no one has hired us.”

He said to them,

“You go into the vineyard too.”

In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager,

“Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last and ending with the first.”

So those who were hired not long before sunset came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner saying,

“The men who came last have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.”

He answered one of them and said,

“My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last as much as I pay you. Is it not permissible for me to do what I like with my own? Or are you envious because I am generous?”

Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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