

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 20

September 24, 2023

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, you have taught us that without love, all our deeds are worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.

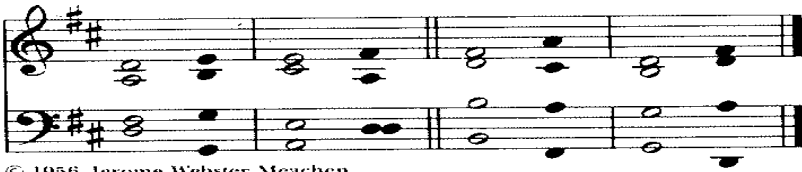
And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 145:14-21

The Psalm will be chanted.



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- 14 The LORD upholds all those who **fall** *
and lifts up all those who are bowed **down**.
- 15 The eyes of all wait upon you, O **Lord**, *
and you give them their food in due **season**.
- 16 You open wide your **hand**, *
and fill all things living with **plenteousness**.
- 17 The LORD is righteous in all his **ways** *
and merciful in all his **works**.
- 18 The LORD is near to all those who call **up-on him**, *
to all who call upon him **faithfully**.
- 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who **fear him**; *
he also will hear their cry and will **help them**.
- 20 The LORD preserves all those who **love him**, *
but he will destroy all the **un-godly**.
- 21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the **LORD**; *
and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name for ever and **ever**.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, and to the Holy **Spirit**: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall be**, world without end. **A-men**.

A Reading from Philippians 1:21-27

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 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 on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 20:1-16

All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Holy Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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 a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proper Preface *The Lord's Day*

For the Celebrant to read after the Sursum Corda.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life .