

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 12

July 30, 2023

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from 1 Kings 3:3-14

Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 119:121-136

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

121 I have done that which is lawful and right; *

O give me not over to my oppressors.

122 Be surety for your servant's good; *

O let not the arrogant oppress me.

123 My eyes have wasted away with looking for your salvation, *
and for the word of your righteousness.

124 O deal with your servant according to your loving mercy, *
and teach me your statutes.

125 I am your servant; O grant me understanding, *
that I may know your testimonies.

126 It is time for you, O LORD, to act, *
for they have broken your law.

127 For I love your commandments above all things, *
more than gold and precious stones.

128 Therefore I hold all your commandments to be right, *
and all false ways I utterly abhor.

129 Your testimonies are wonderful; *
therefore does my soul keep them.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light *
and understanding to the simple.

131 I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath, *
for my delight was in your commandments.

132 O look upon me, and be merciful unto me, *
as you always do for those who love your Name.

133 Order my steps according to your word, *
and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me.

134 O deliver me from those who deal wrongfully, *
and so shall I keep your commandments.

135 Show the light of your countenance upon your servant, *
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes gush out water *
because of those who do not keep your law.

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.
Amen.

A Reading from Romans 8:26-34

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 13:31-33,44-50

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.

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like

leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sursum Corda

(11:15 only)

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People

It is meet and right so to do.