

Cycle A – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sept. 20, 2026

“Are you envious because I am generous? ...”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 145)

Leader: The Lord is near to all who call on him

**All: Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.**

*Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his
greatness is unsearchable.*

**All: God is good to all and
God’s compassion is over all that has been
made.**

Leader: God is just and kind in all God’s doings.



First Reading – Isaiah 55: 6-9

Chapter 55 brings Second Isaiah to a close. Written as the Exile of God’s people into Babylon was about to end, it is filled with hopeful passages that read like lyrics of a hymn. Since the temple has not yet been rebuilt, the first part of this reading reminds the believer that God may be called upon at any time and in any place. The Divine Presence is not confined to the temple. The God who transcends creation and perhaps seemed far from the people in exile is ever near to believers.

1. Why is the concept of God’s nearness so vital, given the times in which these words were written?
2. When do we feel that God is distant from us, or even a stranger? What about our distance from God?

Second Reading – Philippians 1:20-24, 27

In this letter Paul’s own personality shines forth and his own inner thoughts are revealed. Responding to the human kindness shown him by the Philippian Christians, Paul responds in kind. For this reason, Philippians has been called the most human letter of Paul. Most of this letter was written from prison. What might have disheartened anyone else has turned into an advantage by Paul.

1. What do we learn about Paul from this passage? About ourselves?
2. What qualities would characterize us if we lived our lives “in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”?

Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16

What is a parable and what does it do? “A parable is a concise story that is drawn from life, which when told to a particular audience, makes one point that challenges accepted views.” All of these elements are present in the story Jesus tells. What is the kingdom of heaven like? That is the basic question one must ask and the entire passage today provides the answer. The central point of the parable is not on the wages paid to each group but on the owner. He is generous and it is God’s generosity that is the basic issue.

1. What is your reaction to this parable? Why?
2. How does this parable connect to the first reading?
3. Have we ever considered God to be acting unfairly toward us?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God’s challenge for me/ for us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For those fighting for safe working conditions and a just wage and for ourselves bringing willing hands and hearts to God’s vineyard
We pray to the Lord.

Invite other intentions, then end with “Our Father ...”

CLOSING PRAYER:

Leader: Lord God, help us to live our life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus your Son.

**All: Help us to rejoice in your spirit of generosity so that we may open our hearts to others, not with strict justice, but with boundless mercy and compassion.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.