



CONSOLATA SHRINE
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

20th September 2020



FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

“My thoughts are not your thoughts”

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

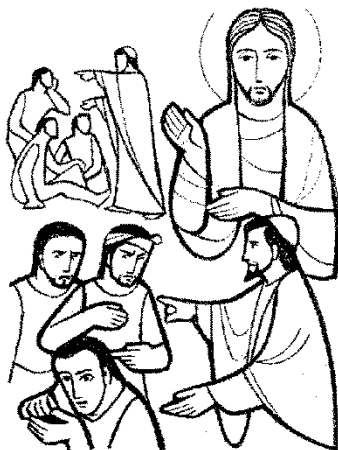
Psalms 145:2-3.8-9.17-18

R. The Lord is close to all who call him

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

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. **R**

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth. **R**



SECOND READING

Philippians 1: 20c-24.27a

“For to me to live is Christ.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brethren: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour 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. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.



ALLELUIA

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

ALLELUIA.



GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

“Do you begrudge my generosity?”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers 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 market place; 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 steward, ‘Call the labourers 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 denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, 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 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.”

Reflection: ‘First and Last’ By Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness. Israel failed to yield



good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors. But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth. This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise. In

the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations. This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy. Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin. But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard. Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

Announcement

1. On Wednesday morning fire erupted at Deep sea slum and approximately 200 families lost their shelters to ashes. Those would like to donate something can take it to the parish office.
2. We are registering infants for baptism which will take place from next month. Kindly visit catechist's office for more information.
3. Consolata Shrine Self-help Group is recruiting new members. Kindly visit their office during the week.

Saints of the Week

Monday: *St Matthew*

Tuesday: *St Maurice & Companions*

Wednesday: *St Pius of Pietrelcina*, priest, memorial

Saturday: *Sts Cosmas & Damian*

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