

**Sunday, September 24, 2023**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Prayer for the Morning**

*How good is the Lord! Come, let us adore!*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia**

**Hymn**

**Meter: CM**

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise;  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.  
O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.  
O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
Which did in Adam fail,  
Should strive afresh against the foe,  
Should strive and should prevail.  
And that a higher gift than grace  
Should flesh and blood refine,  
God's Presence and his very Self,  
And Essence all divine.  
O generous love! that he, who smote,  
In Man for man the foe,  
The double agony in Man  
For man should undergo.  
And in the garden secretly,  
And on the Cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and inspire  
To suffer and to die.

**Psalm**

**100**

*Are you envious because I am generous? (Mt 20:15)*

*God's measureless generosity is a reason not for envy but for praise. All of us, great and small, belong to the flock he leads to safe and plentiful pastures of peace through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

**Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.  
Know that he, the Lord, is God.**

He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.  
Go within his gates, giving thanks.  
Enter his courts with songs of praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name.  
Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age.

Glory to the Father...

**Word of God**

**Ephesians 4:31-32**

Bring the whole tithe/ into the storehouse,/ That there may be food in my house,/ and try me in this, says the Lord of hosts:/ Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven,/ to pour down blessing upon you without measure?

Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Eph 4:7)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

*Who can measure his majestic power, or exhaust the tale of his mercies? (Sir 18:3)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

**Intercessions**

As we have received God's bounty, so let us give him our praise!

**R/Eternal is your merciful love!**

**You have poured upon us love without measure: grant that we may serve you with generosity. R/**

**You have rewarded all humanity for the saving work done by Christ: grant us grateful and giving hearts. R/**

**You have promised us life eternal: grant us unwavering hope and faith in you. R/**

**Personal intentions**

**Our Father....**

*O God of all goodness, your ways are not our ways. You treat us with a love we could never have deserved. You grant us a salvation we could never have imagined through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate on this holy day. Make us faithful agents of your bounty to all peoples, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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**Reading 1** **Isaiah 55:6-9**

**Seek the Lord while he may be found,/ call him while he is near./ Let the scoundrel forsake his way,/ and the wicked his thoughts;/ let him turn to the Lord for mercy;/ to our God, who is generous in forgiving./ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,/ nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord./ As high as the heavens are above the earth,/ so high are my ways above your ways/ and my thoughts above your thoughts.**

**Reading 2** **Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a**

**Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

**Gospel** **Matthew 20:1-16a**

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Men of St. Joseph Prayer**

**St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!**

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat*