

Sunday

4 October 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find
their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw
us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly
city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting: he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

PSALM Psalm 80:9-17

R Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You made room around it,
and when it had taken root, it filled the
land. **R**

The hills were covered with its shadow
and the cedars of God by its boughs.
It stretched out its branches to the Sea
and its tendrils to the River. **R**

Why then have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its
grapes?

The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,
and all the insects of the field devour it. **R**

Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and behold;
Cherish this vine which your right hand has
planted,
and the branch that you made so strong
for yourself.

Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it
down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all
good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your
commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell your house for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.



He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble
me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall
follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love
and long for, my joy and crown, stand
firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be
of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I
ask you also, my loyal companion, help
these women, for they have struggled
beside me in the work of the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest
of my co-workers, whose names are
in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord
always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let
your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near. Do not worry about
anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses
all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally,
beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honourable, whatever is just, whatever is
pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things. Keep on doing
the things that you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me, and
the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief
priests and Pharisees in parables,
saying: "The kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a king who gave a
wedding banquet for his son. He sent
his slaves to call those who had been
invited to the wedding banquet, but
they would not come. Again he sent
other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who
have been invited: Look, I have prepared
my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves
have been slaughtered, and everything
is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'
But they made light of it and went
away, one to his farm, another to his
business, while the rest seized his slaves,
maltreated them, and killed them. The
king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned
their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The
wedding is ready, but those invited were
not worthy. Go therefore into the main
streets, and invite everyone you find
to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves
went out into the streets and gathered
all whom they found, both good and
bad; so the wedding hall was filled with
guests. But when the king came in to
see the guests, he noticed a man there
who was not wearing a wedding robe,
and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you
get in here without a wedding robe?'
And he was speechless. Then the king
said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.' For many are
called, but few are chosen."

POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for
this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is
renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is
given,
when we shall feast at that table where
you reign
with all your saints for ever.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of
the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine
of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and
power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Isaiah 35:3-6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Or **Acts 16:6-12a**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Timothy went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to

Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

PSALM Psalm 147:1-7

R *Great is our Lord and mighty in power.*

Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God,
how joyful to honour him with praise.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel. **R**

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up all their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.
Great is our Lord and mighty in
power;
his wisdom is beyond all telling. **R**

The Lord lifts up the poor,
but casts down the wicked to the
ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the lyre. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:5-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above

all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

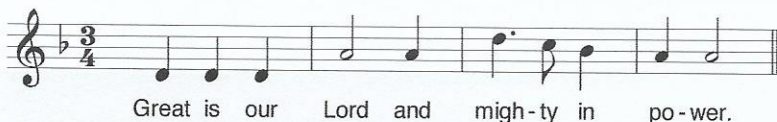
GOSPEL Luke 10:1-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in
tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to
preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of
your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
 who caused all holy Scriptures
 to be written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them,
 to read, mark, learn and inwardly
 digest them
 that, through patience, and the
 comfort of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold
 fast the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our
 Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-4a [5-6] 8-12

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; [And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.] So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your

God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

PSALM Psalm 119:9-16

R Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.

How shall young people cleanse their way to keep themselves according to your word?

With my whole heart have I sought you;

O let me not go astray from your commandments. **R**

Your words have I hidden within my heart,
 that I should not sin against you.
 Blessed are you, O Lord;
 O teach me your statutes. **R**

With my lips have I been telling
 of all the judgements of your mouth.
 I have taken greater delight in the way
 of your testimonies
 than in all manner of riches. **R**

I will meditate on your commandments
 and contemplate your ways.
 My delight shall be in your statutes
 and I will not forget your word. **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves

with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Matthew 24:30-35

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace,
 your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
 with the bread of his life
 and the word of his kingdom:
 renew your people with your heavenly
 grace,
 and in all our weakness
 sustain us by your true and living
 bread;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for
 ever.

