



The kingdom of heaven
is like a landowner
who went out at dawn
to hire laborers for his vineyard.

Matthew 20:1

September 20, 2020
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LET GO

In our daily lives, and in prayer and worship, we encounter a God whom we don't fully understand. We sometimes meet a mysterious and surprising God, whose actions and designs are beyond us, "as high as the heavens are above the earth." Our readings this week describe the confusion, the joy, and the challenge of this encounter. The readings invite us to "let go." Isaiah invites us to let go of trying to fit God into our own comfortable ways of thinking. Paul, knowing that he might face death at any time, describes his joy over having let go of trying to control his future. Jesus' parable in the Gospel of Matthew challenges us to let go of limiting God's generosity to others. May our encounters with our mysterious but trustworthy God transform our hearts and minds, and deepen our trust in God.

A GENEROUS GOD

The parable in today's Gospel identifies a very strong human tendency to believe that everyone should get what they deserve. If we achieve more than others, we deserve to receive more: more money, more privilege, more honor. And so we anticipate that God will reward more liberally those who have done more for God.

Jesus says that God does things differently. The full day's wage in the story is like the gift of forgiveness and salvation, shared equally and abundantly with all. The full-day laborers complained that "you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden." They resented not being placed higher than the others, refusing to accept them as equals. Jesus is saying that, among God's people, there is no such pecking order. Regardless of background or achievements, we can accept everyone as brothers and sisters, and rejoice in God's generosity to everyone.

THE FIRST AND LAST

In today's parable, had the laborers who worked all day been paid first, they likely never would have known that the late-starters had been paid the same wage, and would not have become jealous. In the way the story is told, though, both the justice and the mercy of God are revealed. The landowner gave a just wage to those who worked all day, and he was generously merciful to those who worked less.

When Jesus says that "the last will be first and the first will be last," he points to the kingdom of God. This is a kingdom where oppression is ended and divisions between people are healed. God brings justice and mercy to a world that sorely needs them. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is called "the first and the last," the Alpha and Omega. In Jesus, the first and the last are brought together to heal God's world. When we work for justice and show mercy, we join in Jesus' healing ministry.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:6-9
Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Matthew 20:1-16a

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DIRECTION: Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine. Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKEND LITURGY

First Reading: Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

Second Reading: Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

Gospel: The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

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READINGS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (9/21-9/27)

Monday 8:30 AM: Dickie Abell

Tuesday 5:30 PM: Wheatley & Mudd Families

Wednesday 11:00 AM: Bo Mattingly

Thursday 5:30 PM: Florine Kelty

Friday 8:30 AM (School Mass Only): Melvin Graves

Saturday 8:30 AM: John Frank & Robbie Barber

4:30 PM: For the Parish

Sunday 8:30 AM: Susan Jaeschke

10:30 AM: JoAnn Arnold

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Shirley Barber, (Tues.) Mary Lynne Fenwick, (Wed.) Perry Carrico, (Thurs.) Ione Pinkston, (Fri.) Students, (Sat.) Mary Ann Hale

Weekday Sacristans: (Mon.) Betty Carol Barber, (Tues.) NEEDED, (Wed.) NEEDED, (Thurs.) NEEDED, (Fri.) School, (Sat) NEEDED

Weekend Liturgical Roles for the month have been sent via email.

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Our condolences in Christ to Sheila (David) Thomas, for the passing of Sheila's mother, Mary Rudell Whitehouse. May the family find peace in knowing that we are keeping them in our prayers.

Weekday Mass Schedule this week: St. Dominic will now offer a Mass on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., Fr. Pepper will be the celebrant.

Country Place Gift Cards: St. Dominic PTO will be selling Country Place gift cards after masses this weekend and next weekend. The gift cards are \$25 each and never expire.

Masses: Just a reminder to call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons. Peace to you all!

Altar Society Dues: Every parish family is asked to contribute \$10. Please use the red & white envelope found in your September/October tithing packet. These dues help with the cost of candles, bread & wine, linens, vestments, altar cloths, decorations for holidays/special occasions, general laundering expenses, etc. Special thanks to the women of our parish who devote their time and talent to create an altar that exemplifies the glory to God.

St. D School Scrip Program: Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money for St. Dominic School. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn money for St. D on your purchases. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted. How it works: Buy gift cards at face value, St. D can earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy, use gift cards at full value for your everyday purchases. Get started: **Create an account on the RaiseRight app or at ShopWithScrip.com using St. D's enrollment code: 6L353D8L3433L.** Seamlessly check out by securely paying online. Have questions? Contact: Theresa Mattingly by email @ theresa.mattingly@yahoo.com.

Collection: Hurricane Laura and the California wildfires have caused massive destruction and displacement. We can assist our brothers and sisters affected by disasters in 2020 through monetary donations that will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities and/or Catholic Relief Services as these official relief agencies of the Church provide emergency assistance to those in need. Funds also will be directed to pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church should they arise. Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities of Louisville and include the notation: 2020 Disaster Relief. Checks can be turned into the parish or sent to Catholic Charities of Louisville, 2911 S. 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40208-1303.

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, World Peace, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Reba Hamilton, Glenn Mattingly, Kyle Logsdon, Jeannie Hatchett, Lames Thomas, Ashton Kelly, Katie Haydon, Edwin Thompson, Tammy Harley, Jane Rudd Volz, Dennis Newton, Lucille Spalding, Mary Devine, Roberta Williams, Jerry Craig, Larry Smith, Tom Miller, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Corbin Noel, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

Titling Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$4,974.00

Turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. — *Isaiah 55:7b*