Sunday, September 20, 2026
Proper 20, Year A

Collect of the Day (Contemporary)

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Semicontinuous First Reading and Psalm

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the
wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the
land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us
out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each
day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them,
whether they will follow my instruction or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what
they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." 6 So Moses and Aaron
said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you
out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he
has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against
us?" 8 And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of
bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against
him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."
9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near
to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.' " 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole
congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of
the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 12 "I have heard the
complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the
morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "
13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a

layer of dew around the camp. 14When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

1Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
3Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
5Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
37He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
38Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
39He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
40They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
41He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
42For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
43So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
44He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others’ toil,
45That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

21To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful
labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23I am hard pressed between the two: my
desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24but to remain in the flesh is
more necessary for you. 25Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and
continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26so that I may share abundantly in
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come
and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one
spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28and are in no way
intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your
salvation. And this is God's doing. 29For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only
of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—30since you are having the same
struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said,] 1"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning
to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,
he sent them into his vineyard. 3When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others
standing idle in the marketplace; 4and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I
will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5When he went out again about noon and
about three o'clock, he did the same. 6And about five o'clock he went out and found others
standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7They said
to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the
vineyard.' 8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the
laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9When
those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10Now
when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received
the usual daily wage. 11And when they received it, they grumbled against the
landowner, 12saying, '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.' 13But he replied to one of
them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily
wage? 14Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to
you. 15Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious
because I am generous?' 16So the last will be first, and the first will be last."