Year A – Proper 20

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Collect for Proper 20

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.

Old Testament

Jonah 3:10-10, 1-11

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10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster
that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.
1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said,
'Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to
Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in
lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life
from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!' 4 Then the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be
angry?'

5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter
and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. 6 And the LORD God
prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him
from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. 7 But as morning dawned the next day God
prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. 8 And it happened, when the sun arose,
that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint.
Then he wished death for himself, and said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

9 Then God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?' And he said, 'It is right for
me to be angry, even to death!' 10 But the LORD said, 'You have had pity on the plant for which you
have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I
not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons
who cannot discern between their right hand and their left -- and much livestock?'

Officiant: **The Word of the Lord.**

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145

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1 I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will
bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be
praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And
shall declare Your mighty acts.

5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. 6 Men
shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. 7 They shall utter
the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious
and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works. 10 All Your works shall
praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. 11 They shall speak of the glory of Your
kingdom, And talk of Your power, 12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the
glorious majesty of His kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
14 The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look
expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. 16 You open Your hand And satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. 18 The LORD is near to all who
call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry and save them. 20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the
wicked He will destroy.

21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and
ever.

**At the end of the Psalms this is sung or said*

*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.

New Testament

Philippians 1:21-30

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21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit
from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having
a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more
needful for you.

25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress
and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to

you again. 27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Officiant: **The Word of the Lord.**

The People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Deacon: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you. Or And with your spirit.*

Deacon: *May the Lord be on our minds, on our lips, and on our hearts as we hear His Holy Gospel. The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.*

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Deacon: *We are reading from Matthew's Gospel chapter 20, beginning at verse 1.*

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' 8 So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'

9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'

13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with

me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'

After the Gospel reading, the deacon can elevate the book and says:

Deacon: ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

People: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*