

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Psalm

Psalm 144:2-3,8-9,17-18

R. The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **R.** The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.** The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second reading

Philippians 1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results-I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Lk19:38,2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Communion Antiphon

Ps 118: 4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Sunday 11.15am Mass		
Entrance Hymn	584	God is love, his the care
Offertory	606	Bless the Lord, my soul
Communion		<i>Ecce Panis angelorum (Behold the bread of angels)</i>
Marian antiphon	597	Salve, Regina
Recessional	644	Tell out, my soul



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Meditation

Unemployment is not a strictly modern phenomenon. In Jesus' day those who had no regular work went to the village marketplace every morning, hoping to find a day's labour in a landed man's fields or vineyards. It was a buyer's market. Day labourers worked for whatever they were given.

The basic premise of Jesus' story, then, was as familiar to his first hearers as it is to us today. The story's sting is in its tail. The logic of human justice requires that those who work a full day receive a full day's wage, while those who work one hour receive one hour's pay. It is not so in the kingdom of God. Those who have laboured in the ways of righteousness from early morning receive their full reward. But the prostitutes and tax collectors and sinners who arrive at the eleventh hour receive no less.

The laws of human justice are workable enough under ordinary circumstances, but, as the prophet Isaiah suggests, they are too narrow to contain the always astonishing love of God. The Church is the servant of the kingdom of God, bound by the kingdom's laws. We are commanded to invite to supper not only those who have earned a place by



their long fidelity but also all those who have just arrived at the gate.

The good and the respectable may grumble a bit to find themselves cheek-by-jowl at the Lord's table with sinners. But the host asks, "I am free to do as I please ... am I not? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

Vienna International Religious Centre



