

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
September 24, 2023

Welcome and Greeting

The Efirid Family Singers – *“Jesus Loves Me!”*

Leader – Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

**Cong. - Let us come before Him with thanksgiving,  
And extol Him with music and song!**

Leader – For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all  
gods.

**Cong. - In His hands are the depths of the earth;  
And the mountain peaks belong to Him.**

Leader – The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed  
the dry land.

**Cong. - Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker!**

Leader – For He is our God, and we are the people of His  
pasture,  
And the flock under His care.

**Cong. – Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,  
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!**

First Reading	Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145	Insert
Second Reading	Philippians 1:21-30
Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16

**The Message**

Hymn *“I Will Sing the Wondrous Story”* Insert

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Offering  
Blessing of Offerings

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

The Parish Announcements

The Eford Family Singers – *"10,000 Reasons"*

The Benediction



# Today's Readings

Sunday, September 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give

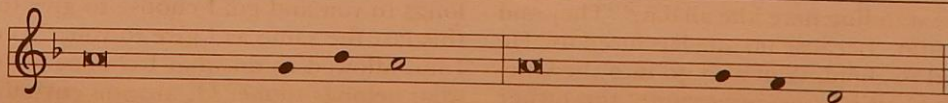
shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

<sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

## Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8; tone 9



I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you  
and praise your name  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD  
and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise  
your works <sup>1</sup> to another  
and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power.

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor  
<sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might  
of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,  
and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.

continued

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance  
of <sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully  
<sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious  
and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger  
and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.

## Second Reading

## Philippians 1:21-30

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

<sup>27</sup>Only, 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, <sup>28</sup>and 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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since 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 to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And 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?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When 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.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, '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.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

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Lectionary year A.