

## **Sunday 20 September 2026**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*

### **First Reading - *Isaiah 55.6-9***

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.  
Turn away

    from your wicked ways,  
and turn to the Lord,  
    for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

    from your plotting  
    for injustice,  
and call upon the Lord,  
    for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,  
    for God will have mercy,  
    and freely forgive.

For the ways

    and the purposes  
    of the Lord  
    are higher than ours -  
as high as the heavens  
    are above the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Second Reading - *Philippians 1.20b-27***

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.  
Even in my imprisonment, I trust

    that Christ  
    will be glorified  
in whatever happens to me,  
    whether I live,  
    or whether I die.

And I do not know  
    which I prefer.

For to me, to live is Christ,  
    and to die is gain.

To remain in this body  
    means fruitful ministry;  
to depart would mean  
    to be with Christ.

But I have become convinced  
    that I shall remain,  
    for your sake;

so that I can return to you,  
    and share with you, once again,  
    in your growth in faith,  
and in the great confidence

    and joy  
    that you have  
    in Christ Jesus.

So continue to live  
    in accordance  
    with the gospel of Christ,  
so that, whether I come to see you myself,  
    or whether I hear about you from afar,

I will know that you are standing firm,  
    and that you are working as one,  
    in the spirit,  
    for the faith,  
    and for the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Gospel - *Matthew 20.1-16***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
    according to Matthew.

Jesus said, 'A landowner went out,  
    early in the morning,  
    to hire workers.

They agreed the usual daily wage,  
    and began the day's work  
    in the vineyard.

The landowner went out again,  
    around nine o'clock;  
and seeing others,

    standing idle, in the market-place,  
invited them, also, to work in the vineyard,  
    offering to pay them  
    "whatever is right."

The landowner went out again, at midday,  
    and again, at about three o'clock,  
    and did the same.

And around five o'clock, the landowner went out  
    and found others, and asked them  
    why they were standing around  
    idle all day;

and when they said  
    that nobody had hired them,  
the landowner told them to join the others,  
    working in the vineyard.

When evening came,  
    the landowner told his manager  
    to call in the workers,  
    and give them their pay,  
    beginning with the last.

So those who were hired  
    at five o'clock  
    came in first.

And each of them received  
    the usual daily wage.

When the others came in,  
    they thought  
    they would receive more.

But they also received  
    the usual daily wage.

And they complained against the landowner,  
    saying, "These worked only the final hour,  
    but you have made them equal to us,  
    when we worked the full day,  
    through the scorching heat."

But the landowner said, "I am doing you no wrong.

    You agreed the usual daily wage.  
    So take what is yours, and go.

I can do as I please  
    with what belongs to me.

And I choose  
    to give the last  
    the same as you.

Or do you somehow see wickedness  
    in my generosity?"

And so it will be  
    in the kingdom of heaven:  
that the last will be first,  
    and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.