

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Lord God, Heavenly Father, why do we have such trouble cheering for others we believe are undeserving? Why are we so quick to say that others are lazy, or unworthy, or foolish, or dumb? Why don't we look at ourselves and then rejoice that others are getting the same grace we are? Forgive us for our shallow understanding of grace. For we are just as broken and just as undeserving as anyone -- and you still promise to love us. Help us to live in your unconditional love and see others as you do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

## Scripture Readings

October 4, 2009

### Psalm 103:1-12

Praise the LORD, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits-  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:  
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

" 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

"The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## Jesus Our Teacher • "The Workers in the Vineyard" Matthew 20:1-16

Introduction: "Who then can be saved?" 19:25

- "What then will there be for us?" 19:27
- "Many who are first will be last..." 19:30

How we measure:

*'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'* v. 12

1. \_\_\_\_\_?

2. \_\_\_\_\_?

3. \_\_\_\_\_?

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_.

What's the key to cheering for others?

How God measures:

*"I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?" v. 14-15*

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers to Sermon Outline:** How much are you blessed? How early did you sign up? How much did you invest? We believe that we are deserving. And God is unfair. He has the vineyard. He doesn't ask for your resume. He makes the invitation. He never stops inviting. He pays - more than we deserve and exactly as promised.

#### **BENEDICTION**

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.**

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**