



Proper 20

September 24<sup>th</sup> 2017

## LECTIONARY

### COLLECT

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, forever and ever. **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. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 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. 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 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. 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?”

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 145 :1-8**

1 I will exalt you, O God  
my King, \*

and bless your Name for  
ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless  
you \*

and praise your Name for  
ever and ever.

3 Great is the Lord and  
greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to his great-  
ness.

4 One generation shall  
praise your works to an-  
other \*

and shall declare your  
power.

5 I will ponder the glori-

ous splendor of your maj-  
esty \*

and all your marvelous  
works.

6 They shall speak of the  
might of your wondrous  
acts, \*

and I will tell of your  
greatness.

7 They shall publish the  
remembrance of your great  
goodness; \*

they shall sing of your  
righteous deeds.

8 The Lord is gracious and  
full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great  
kindness.

**SECOND READING**

**PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire

is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Officiant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**.*

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

## GOSPEL

### **MATTHEW 20:1-16**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him,



‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 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.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.’ 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? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Officiant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

### **Prayers For the Parish**

Teach us good lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to work and not seek for rest; to labor and not ask to any reward. Except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

### **Transitioning New Life at St. Stephen’s**

Holy God, make us Holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us Love. **AMEN**

*In the Anglican Cycle of prayer:*

Let us pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion especially for the Episcopal Church of Southeast Florida;

*In the Diocesan Cycle of prayer:*

We pray for all in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, especially Christ The King in Tucson;