

20th September 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

25th of Year A

Theme: God our Father is generous with His gifts. He shows His love in the gift of the Holy Spirit. He calls us to walk in His way and to reflect His love with similar generosity.

PENITENTIAL RITE.

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have been envious of others to whom God has apparently given more. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have resented newcomers into our part of the vineyard. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for sometimes thinking that we have more right to God's favours than others. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

CELEBRANT PROCLAIMS GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GLORIA:

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that we will grow in the love of God and of one another. Father, guide creation according to your law of love. May we love one another and come to perfection in the eternal life prepared for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD:

1st Reading: Isaiah 55 v. 6-9: In the first reading the prophet Isaiah brings home to us that God's eagerness to forgive totally exceeds our own.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 144

Ⓜ **The Lord is close to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name forever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. Ⓜ

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. Ⓜ

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 Ⓜ

2nd Reading: Philippians 1 v. 20-24, 27: The only thing that matters is to be one with Christ. We are to seek the Lord above all.

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.

Acclamation: **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 v. 1-16: This parable is about the generosity of God. It is a generosity which confounds us and undermines our own mean way of thinking.

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.

ADDRESS: - Bishop Mike

CREED: - Nicene Creed.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: We can bring our many needs before the Lord with confidence because we know He is more generous than we can understand. The Lord is close to us when we call to Him.

Reader: Let us pray for those in charge of industry. May they reconcile profits for their companies with the rights and dignity of each individual worker, so that the purpose of work in God's plan is not debased.

We pray for a spirit of thanksgiving that we have the health to work; may we count our blessings and perform all our tasks with gladness and dedication.

Let us pray for every member of the Body of Christ that we may always be generous with the love we have received.

