

**20 SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**TWENTY-FIFTY SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Come, priestly people, God's kingly race,  
Dedicated nation, people of God,  
Come and praise your Lord.**

We sing to you,  
O Christ, beloved Son of the Father,  
We give you praise,  
O Wisdom everlasting and Word of God.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who founded all the commands of Your sacred law upon love of You and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping Your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Is 55:6-9

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

**Our Response is:** 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. **R/**

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. **R/**

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. **R/**

**SECOND READING:** Phil 1:20-24, 27

**GOSPEL:** Mt 20:1-16

## REFLECTION:

All of us love to follow our own choices and preferences. At times, when doing so, we get lost in what we are doing. The joy that we experience while doing what we desire is a reward in itself. How much is the joy we experience when we faithfully follow Jesus?

In the first reading, Isaiah tells us that *“God’s thoughts are not ours, His ways are not our ways”*. The prophet Isaiah asks *“the wicked man to abandon his way and the evil man, his thoughts”*. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that each one of us is called to participate in God's plan which is different from our thoughts and ways. We are to help in building the kingdom of God.

Today’s Psalm reminds us that God is close to all who call Him. When we realize that God’s thoughts and ways are above ours, we realize that He has blessed us abundantly. All that we have is bestowed on us by Him so, we should not grumble about what others have. In fact, the Psalm invites us to rejoice and bless God who is *“just in all His ways”* as he meets everyone’s needs. Let us ask God to help us understand His thoughts and ways in our life. **Pause**

In the Gospel of today, we find that the labourers who were paid last, shift their attention from the work they were called to do. They start comparing their wages with the others. This results in grumbling about the amount they received. They forget that they were called first and were privileged to share work in the field of the landowner. At our baptism, we too are called by God. We also are given the privilege of sharing in Jesus' work to help build the kingdom of God. Are willing to help build the kingdom of God?

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Leader:** God invites each one of us to work in His vineyard. Let us confidently bring our prayers to the Lord.

**Our response is: Heavenly Father, listen to your children praying**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may offer ourselves to work for the common good of humanity; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may be transparent in all their ways and serve the people with humility; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are looking for employment, that they may find a suitable job and be paid a just wage; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that as Christ’s disciples, we may work to build God’s kingdom of love, peace and truth; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** Almighty God, You have invited us to share in Your Son’s work of Salvation. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace to serve You and our neighbour We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father...

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

O Lord, graciously renew us by your Word, that we may come to possess Your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

#### **Let the Lord have his way**

In your life everyday,  
There's no rest and there's no peace,  
Till the Lord has his Way.  
Put your life in His hand, rest secure in His plan,  
Let the Lord, let the Lord have His way!  
It shall flow like a river.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

*Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*