



**24 September 2023**  
**Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**INTRODUCTION:**

The Liturgy today delves into the enigmatic parable of the laborers in the vineyard. It underscores the profound difference between human and divine understanding, emphasizing that God's ways may seem unfair to us due to our limited perspective. We are urged to have an attitude of awe and surrender, reframing our questions from defiance to wonder in the face of God's infinite justice.

**READINGS:**

First Reading:           Isaiah 55:6-9  
Responsorial Psalm:   Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18  
Second Reading:       Phil 1:20c-24, 27a  
Gospel:                   Matthew 20:1-16

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**Celebrant:** The generous mercy of the Lord exceeds all that we might ever deserve: grateful for his great love, we ask him now to hear our prayers.

For the Church – that we speak out for the 'poor of the land' and call to account those who, 'tamper with the scales,' or buy 'the poor for silver' or for a 'pair of sandals'. We pray to the Lord.

For world leaders and all those in authority. May God's Spirit guide their minds, hearts, and deeds so that they act for the greater good and enable peace, justice, and fairness to prevail. We pray to the Lord.

For those who struggle with, or who have left, the practice of the faith. Through our words, actions, and inspiration may they experience the warmth of God's yearning for their return. We pray to the Lord.

For those in need: those who are troubled or despairing; those who worry about employment; those who struggle to see their way in life, and all who are treated unfairly. May they never lose hope in the generosity of God's justice and mercy. We pray to the Lord.

For the sick, and especially those near to the end of their earthly lives. May they and those who care for them, find comfort in the certainty of God's love. We pray to the Lord.

We now pray silently before the Lord. (p-a-u-s-e). We pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve: to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.