

HYMNS AND READINGS: September 20

Opening Hymn 9 “Not here for high and holy things”

Morning Song

1 Not here for high and holy things we render thanks to thee,
but for the common things of earth, the purple pageantry
of dawning and of dying days, the splendor of the sea,

2 the royal robes of autumn moors, the golden gates of spring,
the velvet of soft summer nights, the silver glistening
of all the million million stars, the silent song they sing,

3 of faith and hope and love undimmed, undying still through death,
the resurrection of the world, what time there comes the breath
of dawn that rustles through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:

4 Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky,
the fields are wet with diamond dew, the worlds awake to cry
their blessings on the Lord of life, as he goes meekly by.

5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
see how the giant sun soars up, great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze,

6 to give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee;
to spend thyself nor count the cost; to serve right gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Offertory Hymn 685 “Rock of ages, cleft for me”

Toplady

1 Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood from thy wounded side that flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2 Should my tears for ever flow, should my zeal no languor know,
all for sin could not atone: thou must save, and thou alone;
in my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.

3 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown and behold thee on thy throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 70 "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Negro Spiritual

1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When the shades of life are falling, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me; In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart within is aching, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Closing Hymn 541 "Come labor on"

Ora Labora

1 Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.
The enemy is watching night and day,
to sow the tares, to snatch the seed away;
while we in sleep our duty have forgot, he slumbered not.

3 Come, labor on.
Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here:
by feeblest agents may our God fulfill his righteous will.

4 Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share to
young and old the Gospel gladness bear:
redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

5 Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Servants, well done."

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 We give you thanks, O God and call upon your Name; *
we make known your deeds among the peoples.
- 2 We sing to you, we sing your praise, *
and speak of all your marvelous works.
- 3 We glory in your holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.
- 4 We search for you and your strength; *
we continue to seek your face.
- 5 We remember the marvels you have done, *
the wonders and the judgments of your mouth,
- 6 We, the offspring of Abraham your servant, *
we, the children of Jacob your chosen.
- 37 You led out your people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 You spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and you satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 You opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
42. For you remembered your holy word *
and Abraham your servant.
- 43 So you led forth your people with gladness, *
your chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 You gave your people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep your statutes *
and observe your laws.
Allelujah!

The First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

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.

The 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."

The Collect

Grant us, God, 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 Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s) Alan and Gayle and Bud; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we remember Wyman Memorial Church of St. Andrew, Marblehead; St. Michael's Church, Marblehead; St. Mary's Church, Rockport; and Secretaries and Administrators in Congregations.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____],

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for those on our prayer list and those you pray for aloud or in silence

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom you remember today]. Pray that you may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence