

CALL TO PRAYER

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.



THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 20:1-16a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this **parable**: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing **idle** in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his **foreman**, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who **bore** the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you **envious** because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."



The Gospel of the Lord

FAITH SHARING

Questions of the Week

Choose one

1. How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?
2. This Gospel reminds us that God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?
3. Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.

CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, guide us, as you guide creation according to your law of love. May we love one another and come to perfection in the eternal life prepared for us. We ask this, as we ask all things, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

GOSPEL WORD SEARCH

F V M O N E Y R S L
 O Q I R T W E E R A
 R G M N A C L P X B
 E R N G E P J P I O
 M L E I I Y C F E R
 A D V C T D A T J E
 N E S S L A L R E R
 D I E U N G E E D S
 D M C O D O V H D D
 R R A R E P M A C E
 M F L E R K Q M L Q
 C D P N I B R B U L
 C E T E H O A S A S
 R K E G P R J U A K
 X B K M A E Q T R O
 W H R P G E L T H R
 Z L A N D O W N E R
 S Y M K I N G D O M
 D E L B M U R G F F
 U H S U O I V N E M

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| BORE | KINGDOM |
| CHEATING | LABORERS |
| DISCIPLES | LANDOWNER |
| ENVOUS | MARKETPLACE |
| EQUAL | MONEY |
| FOREMAN | PARABLE |
| GENEROUS | RECEIVED |
| GRUMBLED | SUMMON |
| HIRED | VINEYARD |
| IDLE | WAGE |

GOSPEL GLOSSARY

A **parable** is a story that teaches a lesson.

Idle means not doing anything.

A **foreman** is someone in charge of other workers.

To summon means to call someone to help you or report to you.

To bear means to suffer and put up with something.

Envious means jealous.