

[128] **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A**

**FIRST READING**

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

55:6-9

**T**urn to the Lord!  
He can still be found.  
Call out to him.  
He is near.  
Give up your wicked ways and your evil thoughts.  
Return to the Lord our God.  
He will be merciful and forgive all your sins.

The Lord says: "My thoughts and my ways are not like yours.  
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
my thoughts and my ways are higher than yours."

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

*R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

Lord, I will praise you each day  
and always honor your name.  
You are wonderful, Lord,  
and you deserve all praise,  
because you are much greater  
than anyone can understand.

*R. The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

You are merciful, Lord!  
You are kind and patient  
and always loving.  
You are good to everyone,  
and you take care  
of all your creation.

*R. The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

Our Lord, everything you do  
is kind and thoughtful,  
and you are near to everyone  
whose prayers are sincere.

*R. The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

## ALLELUIA

See Acts 16:14b

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Are you jealous because I am generous?

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16a

**A**s Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said:  
“Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard.  
After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day’s work,  
he sent them off to his vineyard.”

“About nine that morning,  
the man saw some other people  
standing in the market with nothing to do.  
He said he would pay them what was fair,  
if they would work in his vineyard.  
So they went.”

“At noon and again about three in the afternoon  
he returned to the market.  
And each time he made the same agreement  
with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.”

“Finally, about five in the afternoon  
the man went back and found some others standing there.  
He asked them,

'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'  
"Because no one has hired us,' they answered.  
Then he told them to go work in his vineyard."

"That evening the owner of the vineyard  
told the man in charge of the workers  
to call them in and give them their money.  
He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last.  
When the workers arrived,  
the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon  
were given a full day's pay."

"The workers who had been hired first  
thought they would be given more than others.  
But when they were given the same,  
they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard.  
They said, 'The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour.  
But you paid them the same that you did us.  
And we worked in the hot sun all day long!'"

"The owner answered one of them,  
'Friend, I didn't cheat you.  
I paid you exactly what we agreed on.  
Take your money now and go!  
What business is it of yours if I want to pay them  
the same that I paid you?  
Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?"

Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?"

Jesus then said, "So it is!  
Everyone who is now first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

## Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Prayer:

Dear Lord,

You are always near and ready to pour your blessings on us. Help us to be open to you and grateful for your presence in our lives. In your name we pray ... Amen.

### Readings:

Isaiah 55:6-9;

Ps. 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;

Matthew 20: 1-16a

**Reflection:** *(have a couple of empty glasses of different sizes, a pitcher of water, a towel and some kind of waterproof tray or container on which to set the glasses. For the activity at the end, have plain paper or plastic cups that can be decorated with crayons, markers or stickers)*

Who knows what “generous” means? Can you tell us about someone who was generous to you or an example of a time when you were generous to someone else? What would be the MOST generous thing you can imagine?

Wow! These are all wonderful examples of true generosity! Can you think of anything more generous? Hard to imagine, isn't it?

Well our readings today talk about a generosity that is SO great that it is beyond our ability to picture it or understand it. The readings today talk about God's generosity which is SO much greater than even our greatest acts of generosity, that it hardly make any sense. In fact, in the first reading God tells us that we won't be able to understand! God says, “My thoughts and my ways are not like yours. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, my thoughts and ways are higher than yours!”

Jesus tells us about that generosity in the Gospel reading when he tells the story about the workers who worked different amounts of time all receiving the same pay. To us that doesn't make much sense does it? If you did three chores when your brother or sister only had to do one but you both still got the same treat, would that seem fair? No, it wouldn't seem fair in our way of looking at things.

But we have to remember that God does things in a different way. God gives everyone everything that they are ready to receive....

Let's look at these empty glasses here. They are like us. *(Pick up Pitcher of water)* God is like this pitcher of water. God wants to be generous, to fill us with his love. *(Pour 1 glass half full)* God wants to give us everything we can hold. *(fill glass completely. Stop. Then continue pouring until the water overflows the glass)* God wants to give us everything and more! *(Take next glass and do the same)* God wants to do that for each of us. No matter when we come to God to be filled with his love, God will give us everything we can hold. God will fill us completely. Just like these glasses, some of us may have more or less than another, but in God's way what matters is that we are full to the very brim!

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Pick up one of the full glasses and hold it above the other full glass. Pour more water into the first full glass so that the water overflows into the glass below it) And when we are full to the brim, we cannot help but share God's love with others.*

**Activity: Give each child a cup and invite them to decorate it with images of what they will do this week to imitate God's generosity or of what they will do this week to open themselves to God's love.**