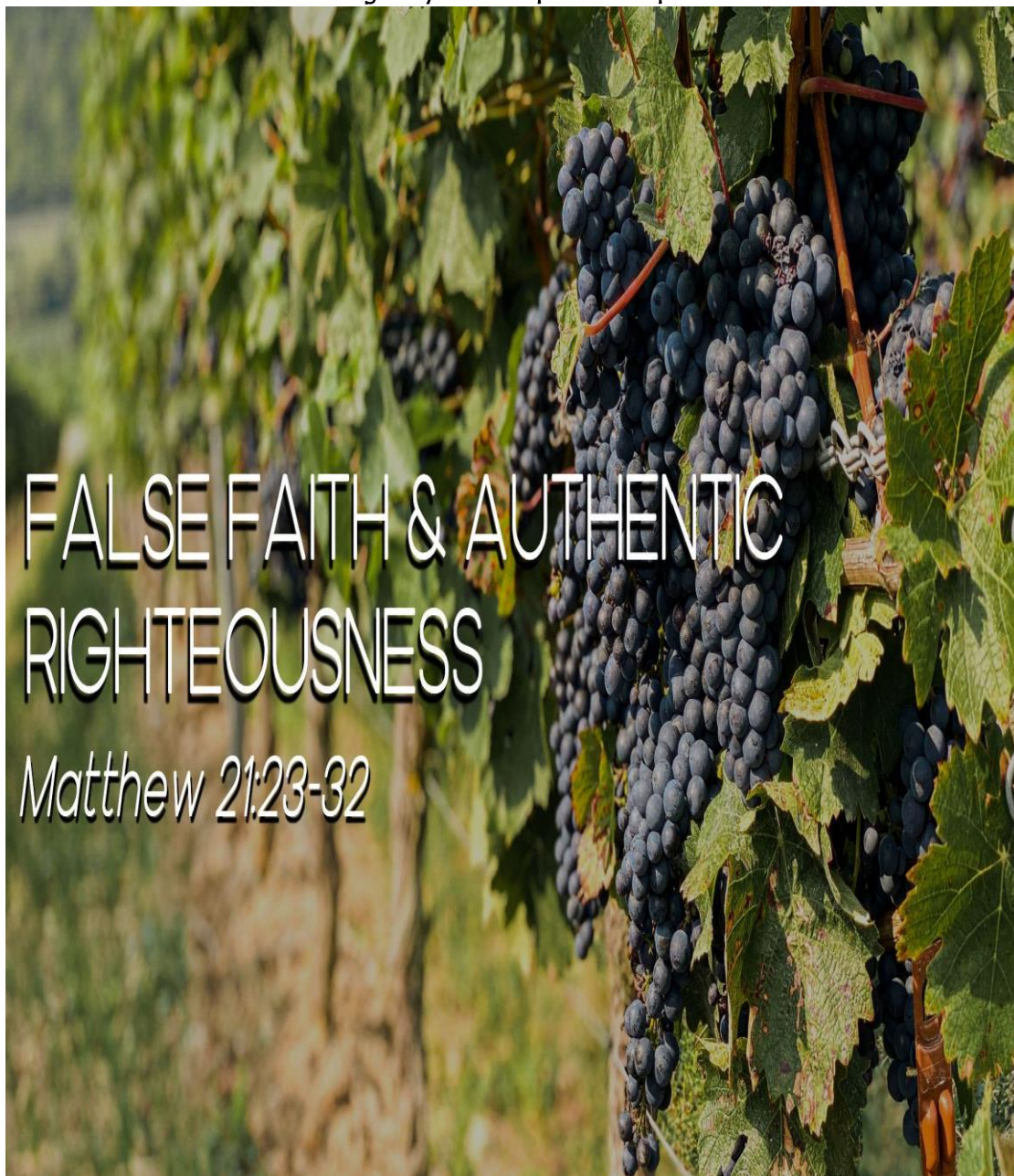




Morning Prayer Proper 21 September 27, 2026



FALSE FAITH & AUTHENTIC RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 21:23-32

Opening Hymn

*The Acclamation of Christ
at the Dawning of the Day*

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Verses from the Venite – A Song of Triumph, or another hymn or canticle, are
said or sung. With the refrain*

All May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; •

let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation. **R**

All May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving •

and be glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God •

and a great king above all gods. **R**

All May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

Come, let us worship and bow down •

and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; •

we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. **R**

All May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

All May Christ the daystar dawn in our hearts
and triumph over the shades of night.

Blessed are you, creator of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 66

1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; *

sing the glory of his Name;

sing the glory of his praise.

2 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! *

because of your great strength

your enemies cringe before you.

3 All the Earth bows down before you, *

sings to you, sings out your Name."

4 Come now and see the works of God, *

how wonderful he is

in his doing toward all people.

5 He turned the sea into dry land,

so that they went through the water on foot, *

and there we rejoiced in him.

6 In his might he rules for ever;
his eyes keep watch over the nations; *
let no rebel rise up against him.

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of
his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, *

the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *

nor withheld his love from me.

Psalm 67

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *

show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon Earth, *

your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *

for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *

may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *

and may all the ends of the Earth stand in awe of him.

Leader: God our comforter,
send your Holy Spirit
to reveal your hidden mercy
even in our failures and troubles;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. thirsty ground springs of water;

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The First Canticle *The Song of the Three* 29-34

All 1Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

2Blessed is your holy and glorious name, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

3Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

4Blessed are you who look into the depths, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

5Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

6Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

7Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, •
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

The Second Reading Mark 7:24-37

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.” The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Hymn TBA

A Reflection by Suzanne Guthrie, Episcopal Priest

I'm both these sons. All day long.

I'm the second son: “Lord, Lord. Yes, yes. Sure, sure.” I look good. And then I disappear.

And I'm the first son: “Ah, no, thanks, I don't think so. Leave me alone. I'm outta here.” Or, less directly, some spiritual equivalent of “The dog will, I'm sure, eat my homework.” But somehow I rally at the eleventh hour. But not without wasting all that time and energy insulting, procrastinating, doubting, and obstructing.

For the last fifty years or so, the first thing I say every morning is: “Open my lips O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.” (Psalm 51:15) Maybe I proclaim God's praise for about five minutes. By the time I'm boiling water for tea, I'm mucking around in the cloudy banality of my soul and psyche exemplified by the second son.

I started a simple gratitude practice a few years ago. As my head hits the pillow at night I name ten things for which I am grateful that day. I'm surprised that I choose such subtle and sensate things: a sudden breeze on my face, the sound of the windchimes outside my window, a joke that made me laugh, someone's smile. If I've been crabby all day, absenting myself from wonder and reverence, I feel especially second son-ish when I offer my gratitude.

“Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” (Matthew 21:31a)

These last moments of the day save me, day after day. Perhaps my murky soul needs an even more frequent practice. Can you see me giggling through the day at this fallen leaf, at that startled squirrel, at the sun's patterns on the kitchen floor? As I write this I realize such a day of gratitude would be like being a pre-verbal child, but with the sorrows and scars of years to lend poignancy to my senses. If every present moment connects to Eternity, I'm not too late, even now.

-Suzanne Guthrie

The Responsory *from Colossians 3*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

from Colossians 3

Gospel Canticle *Luke 1.68-79*

Refrain:

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,**

To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain: You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us bring our hearts before God, seeking not just to speak of faith, but to live it through our actions. We shall respond "Lord guide us in your way"

For the Church, that we may be people who do not merely claim to follow your way, but who manifest your authority through lives of humility, integrity, and sincere obedience. We pray:

"Lord guide us in your way"

For the nations of the world, especially those gripped by the brutality of war in Europe and the Middle East. We pray for the innocent caught in the crossfire, for the displaced, and for the grieving. Soften the hearts of leaders, that they may turn from the path of violence and seek the way of justice and lasting peace. We pray:

"Lord guide us in your way"

For our neighbors enduring the effects of this nor'easter, and for all people across the globe suffering the devastation of extreme weather, floods, and fire. Protect the

vulnerable, sustain those who have lost their homes, and grant wisdom and strength to those who labor to provide relief and restoration. We pray:

“Lord guide us in your way”

For our own community, that we may recognize the places where we have hesitated to follow your call. Give us the grace to repent of our pride and the courage to turn back to you, that we might be found among those who truly do the will of our God. We pray:

“Lord guide us in your way”

We give thanks for the gift of creation, for the beauty of the earth and the abundance it provides. Help us to care for all that you have made, respecting and protecting the environment for future generations. Open our eyes to see your presence in the world around us. We pray:

“Lord guide us in your way”

.For the sick, the lonely, and the forgotten, that they may feel your presence through the hands and voices of those who serve them in your name. For all those on our Parish’s prayer list, for those left on our Prayer Wall and for anyone whose names you may wish to share now, (You may unmute to share your petitions and names)
pause..... We pray

Lord Guide us in your Way

Concluding Collect

Lord of all, who calls us to walk in the way of righteousness: Hear the prayers of your people. Grant us the courage to turn from our hesitation and the strength to follow you in deed and truth, that our lives may bear witness to your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn for the Offerings

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
Praise God all Creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

We Pray for Healing & Support:

We pray this week for Daria Serkov's family. Andrew BeltCappellino teaches the twin sister of Daria. Daria was struck and killed in an accident Friday night in NYC. Please pray for her family. We continue to pray for Judy Hoffman who has been diagnosed with advanced abdominal cancer. We also pray for Bill Ferris' brother-in-law, John G. Bacon, who has been Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. For the continuing recovery of Mary Ann Blados, Andy Visconti, Margaret MacLean, Joanne Calabro, Joe Canning, John Stadenraus, Walter Brigham, Steve Giannitelli, Betianne Morritt, Mark Capellino's Parents, Cindy Belt's mother, Lois Corbett, Barbara Brigham for continued recovery , for Bob Fisher, Sharon Gibbs, Barbara Allen Lieblein, Kathryn James, Peter Gulluscio, Bob and Virginia Springsteen, Ethan Pae, Valerie Capon, Louie Cicero, Linda Armbruster, Andrew Kuhn, Sr. Joy Wright. We pray for, Ukraine, the Sudan, Syria and the countries of the Middle East for peace and for safety. For all those in the midst of war or natural disasters. We pray for peace and the end of divisions in our own country For those grieving loved ones, especially those interred in our cemetery, for those who are ill, for all those who serve the sick, the needy and those in prison, for those who are anxious or fearful. For all our parishioners living with cancer, known or undetected & for all who live with addictions, for those who participate in a 12 step group here at St. Mary, and those who have visited our Prayer Wall.