*Suggested Opening Song: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, #155*

On this Labor Day weekend we call to mind all those whose work makes our lives better and easier, from members of our family, to people in our community, to people around the world. Even as we labor ourselves in service of one another, we are also called to labor in the vineyard to help build God's kingdom. Today's readings remind us that we are responsible for each other, that we cannot give up on others just because we disagree with them or they have hurt us. This weekend, as we appreciate and thank others for their labor, let us reconcile with those who have offended us, and so work to build up the entire kingdom of God.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

*Profession of Faith* p. 142
**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,** (*bow as we say*) ***and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Introductory Rite:*
*Greeting:*
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

*Penitential Rite:* p. 10
Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

*Opening Prayer:*
O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
**Amen.**

*Liturgy of the Word:*

*First Reading* p. 84
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

Thus says the LORD: You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die, " and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

*Responsorial Psalm* *Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9*
R/. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
**R/. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. **R/.**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. **R/.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: “Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.” **R/.**

*Second Reading*
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans *Romans 13:8-10*

Brothers and sisters: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet, " and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel* *Matthew18:15-20*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Reflection on the Word:*

- We tend to think of the person who sins as the one who needs to do something. This much is true, but today's readings emphasize the obligations of the one who does not sin, and even the one who is sinned against. The LORD tells Ezekiel that as a prophet, he is to be a "watchman," warning others of their sins. If Ezekiel ignores their sins and does nothing to lead the sinner back to God, he will be held responsible as well. Jesus tells his disciples that if someone sins against them, they must speak to the sinner, giving them a chance to reconcile. We are responsible for each other as well as ourselves when salvation is on the line.

**Question of the Week**
When have I been reluctant to correct someone who has done something wrong?

*Prayer of the Faithful:*
Jesus is in our midst even as we call to mind our needs, so with confidence we ask that God hear our prayers and respond with mercy and love.

- For the Church, that we may respond with open minds and softened hearts to constructive criticism we receive so that we may be better able to preach the gospel to the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all those who labor to make our lives and our world better, that they may enjoy respect, safe working conditions, and a living wage, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001, twenty-five years ago this week, and all those who were affected by this tragedy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That we may always love our neighbor as ourselves, treating each other as we wish to be treated, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who struggle to find the employment necessary to provide for themselves and their families, that they may know the generosity of their community, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your Son taught us that love is the fulfillment of the law, the law that you have given us, your people. May we reach out in love to our neighbor as you hear the prayers we make today, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Communion Rite*

*The Lord's Prayer:* p. 176
Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave 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.**

*Rite of Peace:*
The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*Communion:*
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion:*
Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

*Concluding Rite:*
*Final Blessing:*
May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

*Suggested Closing Song: Make Us True Servants, #163*