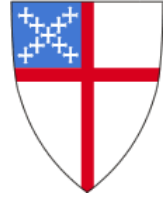


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the  
**Sunday closest to September 28**

Proper 21  
Year A



Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Matthew 21:23-32

### **The Collect**

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.*

### **Old Testament**

#### **Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

### **The Response**

#### **Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**

*Attendite, popule*

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

## **The Gospel**

### **Matthew 21:23-32**

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.