

September 20, 2020

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

No. 9 (from Twelve Short Pieces)

Samuel Wesley

© 1957 by Hinrichsen Edition Ltd., Bach House, 10-12 Baches Street, London, N.I.

The Introit

Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
While all around him waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
“Go work today.”

Words: Jane Laurie Borthwick
Music: T. Tertius Noble

The Call to Worship

Leader: Come, we that love the Lord!

People: Let our songs abound, and every tear be dry.

Leader: Let us feast on the goodness of our God, our Guide.

**People: Let us give thanks for daily bread
on the Way through the wilderness.**

The Hymn No. 731

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIA

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from our banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe we feed upon the manna
which God gives us when we pray.
4. Blest inhabitants of Zion,
washed in our Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, whom our souls rely on,
makes us monarchs, priests to God.
Us, by his great love, he raises,
rulers over self to reign,
and as priests his solemn praises
we for thankful offering bring.

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, source of all that makes life possible,
giver of all that makes life good:
We gather to give you our thanks,
yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness.
What we have we take for granted,
and we grumble about what we lack.
We have squandered your bounty,
with little thought of those who will come after us.
We are more troubled by the few who have more
than by the many who have less.
Forgive us, O God.
In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving;
and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life;
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

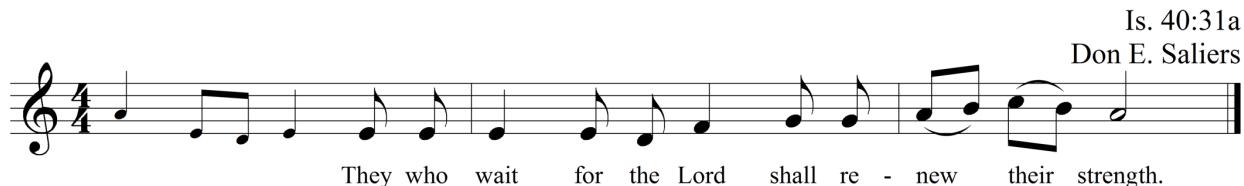
People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter page 828 with response

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Response:



Is. 40:31a
Don E. Saliers

They who wait for the Lord shall re - new their strength.

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- 3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles,
and the judgments he uttered,
- 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob,
his chosen ones.

Response:

37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

38 **Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.**

39 He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.

40 **They asked, and he brought quails,
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.**

41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.

42 **For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.**

43 So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

44 **He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,**

45 **that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.**

Praise the Lord!

Response

Response: © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used with permission

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn No. 132

All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded

MICHAEL

1. All my hope is firmly grounded
In our great and living Lord;
Who, whenever I most need him,
Never fails to keep his word.
Him I must
Wholly trust,
God the ever good and just.
2. Tell me, who can trust our nature,
Human, weak, and insecure?
Which of all the airy castles
Can the hurricane endure?
Build on sand,
Nought can stand,
By our earthly wisdom planned.
3. But in every time and season,
Out of love's abundant store,
God sustains his whole creation,
Fount of life for evermore.
We who share
Earth and air
Count on his unfailing care.
4. Thank, O thank, our great Creator,
Through his only Son this day;
He alone, the heavenly Potter,
Made us out of earth and clay.
Quick to heed,
Strong the deed,
He shall all his people feed.

*Words: © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: 1968 Novello and Co, Ltd.
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.*

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.
People:



The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People:



The Sermon

Can't Go Back Now

Rev. Drew Willson

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

O Give Thanks unto the Lord

Sir George Elvey

O give thanks unto the Lord,
and call upon His Name.
Tell the people what things He hath done.

O let your songs be of Him,
and praise Him,
and let your talking be of all His wondrous works.

Rejoice in His holy Name,
Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
Amen.

Psalm 105:1-3

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 733*Marching to Zion*

MARCHING TO ZION

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad. ***Refrain***
3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. ***Refrain***
4. Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. ***Refrain***

The Benediction**The Choral Response**

Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
Till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
“Well done, well done!”

Words: Jane Laurie Borthwick
Music: T. Tertius Noble

The Postlude*O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines*

Tune by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

*Words: © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Harm.: © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.*

We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Emily Downey, Lynn Kotrady Todd Minnich, Sam Cook

Scriptures

Exodus 16:2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”^[a] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more

necessary for you.²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

The Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”