

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 55:6–9

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

**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**

*Psalm 145:2–3, 8–9, 17–18*

**All:** *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.*

**All:** *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.*

**All:** *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.*

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

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 20:1–16a

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

As 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.

*(Continued)*

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 20:1–16a

“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 the 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.**