

**Reflection:** The reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (20:1-16) presents the parable of the vineyard workers, which offers a powerful theological reflection on divine grace and justice. In this parable, a vineyard owner hires workers at different times of the day, but at the end of the day, he pays everyone the same amount, regardless of the time they have worked. This causes the dissatisfaction of those who worked more hours, as they expected to receive more. From a theological perspective, this parable teaches us about the generosity and equality of divine grace. God is not guided by human standards of reward based on merit, but shows His love and mercy abundantly and generously to all, regardless of their past or how long they have been "working in His vineyard." This reading also reminds us of the importance of not judging or envying the grace that others receive from God. Instead of comparing ourselves to others, we should celebrate God's generosity and be grateful for his undeserved love. Ultimately, the parable invites us to reflect on the understanding of the Kingdom of God, which does not conform to human norms and reminds us that divine grace is a gift that everyone can receive, regardless of their history or circumstances. It is a call to live in gratitude and humility, recognizing that we are all beneficiaries of God's undeserved grace.

1. Equality in God's generosity: The parable teaches us that God is generous and that his grace is not based on our works. Just as the workers who arrived at the end of the day received the same reward, God offers us His love and salvation no matter when or how we seek Him.

2. Envy and comparison: Some workers were resentful of equal pay. This reflects the human tendency to compare ourselves to others and envy what they have. History calls us to reflect on how we handle feelings of envy and to remember that God's generosity should not cause jealousy, but gratitude.

3. The Call to Trust in God: The parable invites us to trust in God's righteousness and wisdom rather than trying to measure our relationship with Him in terms of earthly rewards. God has a plan and purpose for each of us, and our task is to trust in His guidance and unconditional love.

4. The importance of humility: The workers who arrived early in the vineyard could have felt more "worthy" than those who arrived late. In short, this parable of St. Matthew offers valuable lessons on God's generosity, the importance of avoiding envy and the need to trust in his divine plan, all framed in the context of humility and equality in his love and grace. This parable also has a deeper spiritual and moral meaning. However, history reminds us that humility is fundamental in our relationship with God. We should not judge others or think that we are better than them.

Esta parábola También tiene un significado espiritual y moral más profundo. No se trata tanto de una cuestión de justicia económica en el mundo terrenal, sino de enseñanzas sobre la gracia y el reino de Dios. Aquí hay algunas razones por las que el viñador paga de manera igualitaria:

1. Teaching on divine grace: The parable represents the generosity and grace of God. In the spiritual context, it shows that God's salvation and blessings are not earned by merit, but are a free gift of His love and mercy.

2. Equality in the offer of salvation: The vineyard owner represents God, who offers salvation to all, no matter when or how we come to him. This highlights that salvation is available to all, regardless of their past or circumstances.

3. Teaching on humility and envy: The reaction of workers who were hired early in the day and felt aggrieved shows the human tendency to envy and comparison. The parable urges us to avoid envy and to be humble in our relationship with God and others.

4. God's plan and sovereignty: The parable emphasizes that God has a plan and purpose for each individual. In short, the parable of the vineyard focuses on teaching spiritual lessons about grace, equality in the offer of salvation, humility, and God's sovereignty. It is not a teaching on economic justice in the earthly world, but on the relationship between God and humanity and how He treats us with generosity and unconditional love.

# Liturgy of the Word

*Readings for  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## First Reading

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

### Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah (55:6-9)

Seek the Lord while you can find him, call on him while he is near; may the wicked abandon his way, and the criminal, his plans; may he return to the Lord, and he will have mercy; to our God, who is rich in forgiveness. My thoughts are not your thoughts, your ways are not my ways, says the Lord. For just as the heavens are above the earth, so do my ways ahead of your own, and my thoughts over your thoughts”.

**Word of God. *We praise you, Lord.***

## Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 144

### **R. I will bless the Lord eternally.**

\* Day after day I will bless your name and my mouth will not cease to praise you. The Lord is very praiseworthy, for his incalculable greatness. **R.**



\* The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and generous to forgive. Good is the Lord for all and his love extends to all his creatures. **R.**

\* The Lord is always just in his designs and all his works are full of love. It is not far from those who seek it; very near is the Lord, to whom he invokes him. **R.**

## Second Reading

*For me, life is Christ, and death a gain.*

### Reading from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians (1:20-24. 27)

Brethren, whether by my life or by my death, Christ will be glorified in me. Because for me, life is Christ, and death, a gain. But if continuing to live in this world allows me to work still with fruit, I would not know what to choose. Both things make me strong: On the one hand, the desire to die and be with Christ, which is by far the best. and on the other, to remain alive, because this is necessary for your good. As far as you are concerned, lead a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

**Word of God. *We praise you, Lord.***

## Holy Gospel

*I Are you going to hold a grudge against me because I'm good?*

### Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (20, 1-16)

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard—“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent



them into his vineyard. “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So, they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went

out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So, when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ “So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Word of God. *Glory to you Lord Jesus.***