

Season after Pentecost, Proper 20A

(Sunday between September 18 and September 24 inclusive)

Color: Green

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Exodus 16:2-15](#) (*God supplied the Israelites in the wilderness*)

[Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45](#) (*Remember the wonderful works God has done*)

[Philippians 1:21-30](#) (*Stand firm in the faith; live in a way worthy of the gospel*)

[Matthew 20:1-16](#) (*Parable of the laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Jonah 3:10-4:11](#) (*The Lord teaches Jonah a lesson in mercy*)

[Psalm 145:1-8](#) (*The Lord is gracious and slow to anger*)

Themes: God's Providence, Faithfulness, Mercy, Grace, Service

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (<i>HOLY MANNA</i>)	Exodus, Matthew
Awake, Awake to Love and Work (<i>MORNING SONG</i>)	Matthew
For the Fruit of All Creation (<i>AR HYD Y NOS</i>)	Matthew
For the Healing of the Nations (<i>BEECHER; CWM RHONDDA; REGENT SQUARE; ST. THOMAS</i>)	Jonah
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (<i>CWM RHONDDA</i>)	Exodus, Psalm 105
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord (<i>ST. THOMAS</i>)	Jonah, Matthew
Inspired By Love and Anger (<i>SALLEY GARDENS</i>)	Jonah, Social Justice
Live in Charity (<i>UBI CARITAS</i>)	Philippians
O Jesus, I Have Promised (<i>ANGEL'S STORY; NYLAND</i>)	Philippians, Matthew
O Worship the King (<i>LYONS</i>)	Psalm 145
Pues Si Vivimos ("When We Are Living") (<i>SOMOS DEL SEÑOR</i>)	Philippians
Serve the Lord with Gladness (<i>LEE</i>)	Matthew
Take My Life and Let It Be Glorified (<i>HENDON</i>)	Philippians
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (<i>WELLESLEY; IN BABILONE; ST. HELENA</i>)	Jonah, Matthew

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

All Earth Rejoice With Gladsome Voice - E..... Ps 145
Antonio Vivaldi/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 1992, Belwin Mills, BSC 00234
SATB, Keyboard

For the Fruit of All Creation - ME..... Matthew
AR HYD Y NOS/Anne Krentz Organ, arr.
© 2016, Hope Publishing Co., C 6041
SATB, Piano, opt. Cello, C-Instrument

Give Me Jesus - ME Philippians
Negro Spiritual/Mark Patterson, arr.
© 2009, Choristers Guild, CGA 1165
SATB, Piano, opt. Alto Sax or Clarinet

Here I Am, Lord - M..... Jonah
Daniel L. Schutte/John Leavitt, arr.
© 2017 Brookfield Press, HL 00201275
SATB, Keyboard

Those Who Love and Those Who Labor - ME..... Matt
COLUMCILLE/Richard Horn, arr.
© 2002, MorningStar Music, 50-6202
SAB, Organ

Come, Labor On - M Matthew
ORA LABORA/Jeremy Bankston, arr.
© 2020, MorningStar Music, 50-6125
SATB, Organ, opt. 2 Trumpets, Timpani

All Things Bright and Beautiful - ME..... Psalm 145
John Rutter
© 1990, Oxford University Press, 9780193420649
SATB, Organ

Shepherd of Souls - E Exodus, Communion
Ruth Elaine Schram
© 2005, Augsburg Fortress, 980-8006-7728-5
SAB, Piano

O Jesus, I Have Promised - ME..... Philippians
John Carter
© 1981, Hinshaw Music, HMC 510
SATB, Keyboard

-- Youth and Children --

Now Thank We All Our God - ME Psalm 145
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT/Michael Rosewall, arr.
© 2006, Augsburg Fortress, 980-8006-2385-1
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Ubi Caritas - E Philippians
Becki Slagle Mayo
© 2013, Choristers Guild, CGA1086
2-Part, Piano, opt. Oboe

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*May you stand sure on your ground
And know that every grace you need
Will unfold before you
Like all the mornings of your life.*

— JOHN O'DONOHUE

*To be sensual, I think, is to respect and rejoice in the force of life,
of life itself, and to be present in all that one does, from the effort
of loving to the breaking of bread.*

— JAMES BALDWIN

CALL TO WORSHIP
(based upon Psalm 145:1-8)

One: Extol the Lord, all you who gather! Bless God's name forever and ever!
Many: Every day we bless you, O God, and praise your name forever!
One: The Lord is great and greatly to be praised. God's greatness is unsearchable.
Many: We laud your good works to one another, and will declare your mighty acts to all the world.
One: We gather today to meditate on the glorious splendor of God's majesty and on God's mighty acts.
Many: We proclaim your awesome deeds and declare your greatness.
One: We come to this place to celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and to sing aloud of your righteousness.
Many: For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
All: Let us declare God's goodness together, now and forever. Amen.

— Brittany Stillwell*

GATHERING PRAYER
(influenced by Psalm 78, Jonah 3-4, Matthew 20)

Gracious God, we come today from our scattered places, bringing all of who we are.
We acknowledge that we are an inconsistent people,
 claiming your merciful love when it is convenient
 and rejecting it when it challenges our understanding of the world.
Gather us up into your spacious grace anyway.
Open our eyes to see with your compassionate vision.
Expand our hearts so that we might make room for your extravagant grace for all. Amen.

MEDITATIVE PSALTER READING
(on Psalm 145:1-8)

We are going to read the Psalm three times with space after for reflection. After each reading, I will pose a question for your reflection. Hear now, God's Word:

[Read Psalm 145:1-8]

Where have you encountered the glorious splendor of God's majesty this week? What wondrous works have you experienced that need stillness and quiet for meditation and reflection?

[Read Psalm 145:1-8]

What are you celebrating today? What mighty acts of God need to be sung and proclaimed aloud?

[Read Psalm 145:1-8]

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

Rest in this assurance today. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Merciful God,

You are extravagant with your love and generous with your grace.

When we are recipients of your compassion, we are quick to shout your praise—

But we want to decide what is fair

and when your abundant mercy extends too far, we get angry and petulant.

Forgive us, O God.

You care about the whole world and call us to do the same.

Yet too often we care only about what impacts us, unable to see past our own suffering.

We get easily caught up in systems of retribution

and forget that you are a God of restoration.

Forgive us, O God.

You see the injustice that leads to suffering and care more about equity than equality.

But we convince ourselves that we deserve what we have

and ignore the systems that lead to cries like “no one will hire us.”

Forgive us, O God. Amen.

Relenting God,

When we are more concerned about “that for which we did not labor and did not grow,”

Meet our anger with your steadfast love.

When we get envious of your generosity,

Meet our grumbling with your abundant mercy.

When we see others as intimidating opponents,

Meet our indignance with your unending grace.

Compassionate God,

You forgive our inequity and refuse to destroy your people.

You are restrained in your anger and do not stir up wrath.

You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God of compassion be with you as you go, showering you with grace for the journey, and may you set your hope in God, so that you can be a tangible expression of God’s compassion and love to all you meet. Amen.

*Thanks to Brittany Stillwell for her contribution of this week’s prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor