

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 21.23-32

<sup>23</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. 'By what authority are you doing these things?' they asked. 'And who gave you this authority?' <sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, 'I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup> John's baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?' They discussed it among themselves and said, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will ask, "Then why didn't you believe him?" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, "Of human origin" – we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.' <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, 'We don't know.' Then he said, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> 'What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Son, go and work today in the vineyard." <sup>29</sup> "I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> 'Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, "I will, sir," but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> 'Which of the two did what his father wanted?' 'The first,' they answered. Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Hear the Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020**

### **OPENING SENTENCE**

Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. Hosea 6.1a, 2b

### **COLLECT**

Grant, O merciful God, that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus, who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and in humility became obedient even to death. For you have highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in everlasting glory. Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Giver of life and love, we thank you that in this heavenly banquet you invigorate and renew us. Living in the unity of the Spirit, may we boldly use your gifts to continue your work in the world.

### **BLESSING**

May the Spirit lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing...

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' <sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?'

<sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.' <sup>5</sup> The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Hear the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2.1-13

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

Hear the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn AHB 170-  
At the name of Jesus**

1 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow  
Every tongue confess him King of glory now  
Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord  
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word

2 Humbled for a reason To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners Unto whom he came  
Faithfully he bore it Spotless to the last  
Brought it back victorious When from death he passed.

3 Name him, brothers, name him With love as strong as death  
But with awe and wonder And with bated breath  
He is God the Saviour He is Christ the Lord  
Ever to be worshipped Trusted and adored

4 In your hearts enthrone Him There let him subdue  
All that is not holy All that is not true  
Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour  
Let his will enfold you In its light and power

Caroline Maria Noel 1817-77

**1<sup>st</sup> Hymn AHB 29-  
As pants the hart for cooling streams**

1 As pants the hart for cooling streams  
in parched and barren ways  
so longs my soul for you, O God,  
and your refreshing grace.

2 For you my God, the living God.  
my thirsting soul will pine:  
O when shall I behold your face,  
your majesty divine?

3 God of my strength, my tears have been  
by day and night my food;  
the mockers taunt continually  
and say: 'Where is your God?'

4 Why restless, why cast down, my soul?  
Hope still, and you shall sing  
the praise of him who is your God,  
your health's etemal spring.

Nahum Tate 1652-1715 and Nicholas Brady