

LAY PREACHERS' BULLETIN
Lectionary Notes – September 2026

September's lectionary notes have been provided by The Rev. Cdr. (Ret'd) John Wilcox, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Calgary.

September 6, 2026 - Pentecost 15

Proper: BAS page 378

Gospel: [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

1. Restoration over Retribution (vv. 15–17)
 - Jesus' teaching prioritizes reconciliation within the body of Christ.
 - The Church is called to practice patient, step-by-step pastoral care, seeking the return of the one who has strayed.
2. Binding and Loosing: The Church's Pastoral Authority (v. 18)
 - Christ entrusts the Church with spiritual authority to forgive, reconcile, and, when necessary, set boundaries.
 - This authority must be exercised with humility and grounded in prayer, sacramental life, and mutual accountability.
 - It reflects God's desire to reconcile rather than to exclude.
3. Christ's Presence in Gathered Community (vv. 19–20)
 - Even the smallest gathering is a place of divine presence.
 - Prayerful agreement becomes a means of participating in God's will.
 - The Church's life—especially in moments of conflict—is sustained by the promise that Christ is present among us.

September 13, 2026 – Eve of Holy Cross Day

Propers: BAS page 422

Gospel: [John 3:13-17](#)

Reflection Notes on John 3:13 – 17

1. The Cross as Lifting Up and Healing (v.14–15)

As Moses lifted up the serpent, so Christ is lifted on the cross

- An image of atonement and healing.
- Calling for faith that leads to eternal life.

2. Salvation, Not Condemnation (v.17)

Christ comes to save, not condemn.

- Asking for a response.
- Repentance
- Participation in the life of salvation through faith and sacrament.

September 20, 2026 – Pentecost 17

Proper: BAS page 381

Gospel: [Matthew 20: 1-16](#)

Reflection Notes on Matthew 20: 1 – 16

1. The Generous Initiative of God (vv.1–2)

The landowner goes out early to hire laborers, establishing the vineyard as a sign of God's kingdom.

- God takes the initiative in calling people into His service.
- The agreed wage (a denarius) reflects justice and covenant faithfulness.

2. The Persistent Call Throughout the Day (vv.3–7)

The landowner continues to seek workers at different hours.

- God calls people at every stage of life—not only the “early” or seemingly deserving.
- No one is excluded from vocation in the kingdom.
- The Church's mission is ongoing, inviting all into participation in God's work.

1. The Radical Generosity of Grace (vv.8–12)

All laborers receive the same wage regardless of how long they worked.

- The kingdom operates on grace rather than strict human merit.
- This challenges human notions of fairness and reward.

September 27, 2026 – Truth & Reconciliation Sunday

Propers – BAS page 375

Epistle: [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

Reflection Notes on Mathew 21: 33 - 46

1. The Vineyard as God's Covenant Gift

- The vineyard recalls God's careful planting and tending of Israel, a sign of covenant grace and responsibility.
- Creation, covenant, and Church life are gifts entrusted to human stewardship.
- How do God's people receive and tend what has been given.

2. The Rejection of God's Messengers

- The tenants' violence toward the servants reflects Israel's resistance to the prophets and the human tendency to resist correction.
- The Church is called to hear prophetic voices with humility rather than defensiveness.

3. The Son Sent in Love and Rejected

- The sending of the son reveals the depth of God's patience and love, fulfilled in Christ.
- The rejection and killing of the son point toward the Passion, where human violence meets divine mercy.

Resources Used:

William Barclay Bible Commentary
Jerome Biblical Commentary
Working Preacher Website
Vanderbilt University Website