

Sunday, September 20th, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Season of Creation

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS (16:2-15)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

Psalms (105:1-6, 37-45)

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvellous works.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face.
Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.
He led out his people with silver and gold; in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
Egypt was glad of their going, because they were afraid of them.
He spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light in the night season.
They asked, and quails appeared, and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
He opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.
For God remembered his holy word and Abraham his servant.
So he led forth his people with gladness, his chosen with shouts of joy.

He gave his people the lands of the nations, and they took the fruit of others' toil,
That they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (1:21-30)

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (20:1-16)

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Hymns

Open : SANC 24 **I Have Called You By Your Name** v1,2,4

D. C. Damon (c) 1998 Hope Publishing Co.

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I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are
mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Gradual : SANC 25 **From the Waters of Creation**

Tune: Nettleton Text: K. Wehlander (c) 2007 (*Cdn.)

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From the waters of creation to the shores of Galilee,
in each river sweeping onward there's a promise we can see.
All who search for life in fullness, all who long for dignity;
come and drink now - don't be thirsty.
God's grace ever will flow free.

From the parting of the waters to the Jordan's ancient tide,
in the font, forever rising , there's a love that will abide.
All who yearn for gentle mercy, all who seek community:
come and wash now - don't be lonely.
God's grace ever will flow free.

---gospel--

From the streams that Amos visioned
to the pool where Jesus healed
in the wells we build together, there's a dream that is revealed :
we will work for hope and justice ; we will live in unity.
Come and share now - don't be fearful.
God's grace ever will flow free.

Offertory: **Grace Alone**

S. W. Brown, J. Nelson (c) 1998 Universal Music/ Brentwood-Benson Publishing

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Ev'ry promise we can make
Ev'ry prayer and step of faith
Ev'ry diff'rence we will make
Is only by His grace
Ev'ry mountain we will climb
Ev'ry ray of hope we shine
Ev'ry blessing left behind
Is only by His grace

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

Ev'ry soul we long to reach
Ev'ry heart we hope to teach
Ev'rywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace
Ev'ry loving word we say
Ev'ry tear we wipe away
Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace

Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our Cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone
We will go forth in grace alone

Close : SANC 29 God, **When I Came Into This Life**

Tune: New Britain Text: F. Kaan (c)1979 The Hymn Society(Hope Publishing)

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God, when I came into this life
you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself,
responding to your claim.

You give me freedom to believe;
today I make my choice
and to the worship of the church
I add my learning voice.

In all the tensions of my life,
between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope,
sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief
and let my life be true:
feet firmly planted on the earth
my sights set high on you.