

Sunday, September 27th, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
Season of Creation

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS (17:1-7)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (2:1-13)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God

also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (21:23-32)

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Hymns

Open: CP 388 **Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken**

Tune: Austria - F.J.Haydn Text: J. Newton P.D.

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

See! The streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering --
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night, and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which God gives them when they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the world's best pleasure,
all its boasted pomp or show:
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

Gradual : CP354 **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing** v1,2 /3

Tune:Nettleton Text. R. Robinson (P.D.)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation:
thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

----gospel--

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Offertory: **As the Deer**

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As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother
Even though you are a King
I love you more than any other
So much more than anything

You alone are my strength my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver
Only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye

You alone are my strength my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

Close: SANC 97 **God is Calling Through the Whisper**

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God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – can we hear?
God is calling - can we hear?