

Readings for 27th September 2020 – Pentecost +17

A reading from Exodus chapter 17 beginning at verse 1. [17.1-7]

1From 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.

²The 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?’

³But 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?’

⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD,

‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’

⁵The 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.

⁶I 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.

⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah,

because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying,

‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78 beginning at verse 1. [78.1-4,11-18]

1. Give heed to my teaching, O my people:

incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

2. For I will open my mouth in a parable:

and expound the mysteries of former times.

3. What we have heard and known:

what our forebears have told us,

4. We will not hide from their children, but to declare to a generation yet to come:

the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works.

11. For he did marvellous things in the sight of their ancestors:

in the land of Egypt, in the country of Zoan.

12. He divided the sea and let them pass through:

he made the waters stand up in a heap.

13. In the daytime he led them with a cloud:

and all night long with the light of fire.

14. He cleft rocks in the wilderness:

and gave them drink in abundance as from springs of water.

15. He brought streams out of the rock:

and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.

16. But for all this they sinned yet more against him:

and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. [1.1-13]

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you,

⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight

¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,

¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness

that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

12 I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel,

¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard

and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ;

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 21 beginning at verse 23. [21.23-32]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

23 When he 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?'

²⁴Jesus 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.

²⁵Did 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?"

²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.'

²⁷So 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.

28 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said,

"Son, go and work in the vineyard today."

²⁹He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go.

³¹Which 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.

³²For 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.