

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

20 September 2020 *Evening Prayer*

Preacher: Rev. Clif McDonnell Leader: Catriona Johnson

Prayer of the Week

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm: 145: 14-21

The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

1st Reading: Exodus 16: 14-31

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. ¹⁵When 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. ¹⁶This is what the Lord has commanded: "Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." ' ¹⁷The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

¹⁹And Moses said to them, 'Let no one leave any of it over until morning.' ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers apiece. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, ²³he said to them, 'This is what the Lord has commanded: "Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy sabbath to the Lord; bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning." ' ²⁴So they put it aside until morning, as Moses commanded them; and it did not become foul, and there were no worms in it. ²⁵Moses said, 'Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶For six days you shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is a sabbath, there will be none.'

²⁷ On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, and they found none. ²⁸The Lord said to Moses, 'How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and instructions? ²⁹See! The Lord has given you the sabbath, therefore on the sixth day he gives you food for two days; each of you stay where you are; do not leave your place on the seventh day.' ³⁰So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ The house of Israel called it manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

2nd Reading: Romans 15: 7-13

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';

¹⁰and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

¹¹and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';

¹²and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.