

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
*Dedicated to Growth in Church and to  
the Challenges of Loving Service*  
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**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
September 20, 2020**

**First reading Isaiah 55: 6-9**

**An Invitation to Abundant Life**

In this passage, the Lord contrasts His **thoughts** and **ways** with sinful Israel's. Human plans inevitably fail and falter, but the Lord's plans are different. When He promises forgiveness and restored blessing for His people, He will be true to His **word**. Just as the rain and snow fall to the ground and fulfill their God given purpose unhindered, God's promises and purposes will be realized.

To **seek the Lord** means to approach Him through prayer and repentance. This carries with it the idea of discerning and emulating God's way of life and His character. The phrase **while He may be found** means that the opportunity for response is urgent.

*Human way!* There have been plenty of "scoundrels" in this book. King Ahaz had refused to believe in God's saving word, selecting to trust in his misguided notions of security. He had even dismissed Isaiah's offer of a sign from God.

**No mercy or compassion was to be found in this history.**

*God's way!* But there is hope. God is not bound by the limited thinking of mortals. The divine king offers mercy and forgiveness to Israel.

**All the people need do is respond to the divine invitation.**

**The Lord is near to all who call upon him!  
Second reading Philippians 1: 20c – 24, 27a  
To Live Is Christ**

Paul is in prison and faces the possibility of being condemned to death.

**Earnest expectation** conveys the idea of watching for something so intently that one's head turns away from everything else, Paul is truly focused on Christ.

Paul is caught between his **desire** and his duty. HE is in the ultimate win/win situation in which he sees life and death as equally valuable. If he continues to live, he will come to know, love, and serve the Lord more fully and witness to more people. If he dies, he will completely, finally, and perfectly know.

Paul cannot lose! If he is put the death by the civil authorities, he will enter into a new life with Christ. He will be freed from the difficulties of life on earth.

**"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ!"**

**The Gospel Matthew 20: 1-16a**

**The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard**

*Peter's false presumption!* Jesus tells this parable to Peter in answer to Peter's question, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us" (19:27).

Jesus told this parable to illustrate His proverb that "the first will be last, and the last first."

The **landowner** hired workers at 9 am. Noon, 3 pm. and finally 5 pm. The group hired at the end of the day would have included the sort of workers nobody wants to hire. The owner promised all the laborers the same wage: a **denarius**.

This parable reveals important truths about God's grace. No matter how many hours they worked, all workers were paid the same wage-the wage that was promised.

The workers hired **first** represent Israel, the recipients of God's covenant promises. Those hired **last**, at the end of the day, represent the Gentiles, who were offered the same salvation available to the Jews through faith in Christ.

**To marvel at the mystery of God's generosity!  
Accepting God's generosity transforms our  
lives so that we can conduct ourselves in a way  
worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

This brings us to a practical application of the parable to our own lives.

The parable of the vineyard owner invites us to ask ourselves about our own attitudes toward our needy brothers and sisters.

How insensitive are we to their plight? Are we so wrapped up in our own efforts to make a living that we forget about them in their desperate need? Are we so insensitive to their plight that we even find ourselves begrudging them the extraordinary help they sometimes get from people like the vineyard owner? **How different is our heavenly**

**Father toward us!**

Winston Churchill, the great prime minister of England, was right:

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call for an appointment

**For Pregnancy Support:**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**MASS INTENTIONS September 19 – 28, 2020**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Lola Schaefer**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Denise M. LePage**

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Communion Services

Thursday 9:00 a.m. Communion Services

Friday 9:00 a.m. Communion Services

**We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday  
at 4:30 PM Please come to prayer for the  
families and our Country!**

**Prayer Ministry for Parishioners and Their  
Loved Ones Prayer requests:** can be email to

[christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com)

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Giving at Greenfield!**

**WHAT IS GREENFIELD?**

The Christ Child Family adopts 50 needy families from Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Greenfield each year. We purchase gifts for every person in the family. Family information and sign-ups will happen at Christ Child in November and we will deliver all gifts on a specific TBD date in December.

**There are many ways to participate in this  
charitable project including:**

- \* **adopt a family**
- \* **adopt an adult or child**
- \* **giving a monetary contribution**
- \* **shopping for a family using money  
Donated to the project  
Donating gently used coats and  
Sweaters, toys, children's games and  
Books**

The Greenfield Project will obviously be different from past years because of COVID-19. We are in contact with the team in Greenfield to work out logistics and select a date for delivery of gifts. I will make sure I send you detailed information in October.

**On a personal note**, I would love a few people who would like to participate in the leadership and organization of the project. Please contact me if you are interested.

[karengjoesten@gmail.com](mailto:karengjoesten@gmail.com)

408 375-0984 cell (please leave a message as I don't pick up if I don't recognize the name or #)

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**Report Sunday September 12 & 13, 2020**

**TOTAL \$1,544.00**

**Second Collection Catholic Charity was  
\$275.00**

**Please help us, we need you!!!  
God bless you.**

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

We meet 4<sup>th</sup> the Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 PM. **September 23<sup>rd</sup> our focus is social and spiritual at the same time!**