

GENEROSITY

20th September 2026

Generous God,
*free us from comparison, competition and the need to keep score.
Teach us to receive your grace with grateful hearts and
to celebrate your generosity towards others.
Help us become people who give freely because we
have first received so freely. Amen.*

**Parable of the workers
in the vineyard**

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

Jesus' parable unsettles our sense of fairness. The workers who laboured all day cannot understand why those who arrived at the last hour receive the same generosity. Yet perhaps that is precisely the point: God's grace is not calculated according to our performance. We can spend so much of life comparing ourselves with others, measuring who deserves more, who has done enough, or who arrived too late. But God does not keep accounts the way we do. The kingdom is not a workplace where we earn our place; it is a household where grace is freely given. This week, Jesus invites us to put down our measuring sticks, rejoice in God's generosity, and ask whether we can receive grace without needing to decide who deserves it.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Prayer of the Day: Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings

First Reading from Exodus 16.2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The 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.' ⁴Then 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.' ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' ⁶So 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, ⁷and 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?' ⁸And 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.' ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²'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." ' ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: After leaving Egypt, the Israelites become hungry in the wilderness and complain against Moses. God responds by providing manna, teaching them to trust God for their daily needs.

Meaning & relevance today: We can easily focus on what we lack and forget what God has already provided. The manna reminds us to live with daily trust rather than constant anxiety about tomorrow.

Reflection question: *Where am I being invited to trust God more deeply with my daily needs?*

Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

¹ **O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.**

² Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.

³ **Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.**

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.

⁵ **Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,**

⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

³⁷ **He brought Israel out with silver and with gold:
and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.**

³⁸ Egypt was glad at their going:
for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.

³⁹ **He spread out a cloud for a covering:
and fire to lighten the night.**

⁴⁰ The people asked, and he brought them quails:
and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.

⁴¹ **He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed:
and ran in the parched land like a river.**

⁴² For he had remembered his holy word:
that he gave to Abraham his servant.

⁴³ **So he led out his people with rejoicing:
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;**

⁴⁴ He gave them the land of the nations:
and they took possession of the fruit for which other peoples had toiled,

⁴⁵ **So that they might keep his statutes:
and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.**

Second Reading from Philippians 21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul writes from imprisonment, yet speaks of living for Christ and remaining faithful whatever happens. He encourages the Philippians to stand together courageously in their faith.

Meaning & relevance today: Christian faith is not simply about comfort or success. It is about discovering a deeper purpose in Christ and living with courage, hope and integrity whatever circumstances we face.

Reflection question: *What would it mean for me to live more intentionally for Christ this week?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 20.1-16

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When 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." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "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."

¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Jesus tells the parable of workers hired at different times of the day, yet all receiving the same generous wage. Those who worked longest complain that the landowner is unfair.

Meaning & relevance today: God's grace is not a reward system based on who has worked the longest or achieved the most. Grace challenges our instinct to compare ourselves with others and invites us to celebrate God's generosity.

Reflection question: *Where am I comparing my life or faith with someone else's instead of simply receiving God's grace with gratitude?*

News & Notices

ANNUAL BLESSING OF PETS-CELEBRATING ST FRANCIS DAY: *Come & give thanks for the joy, companionship and comfort our animals brings into our lives*

St Peter's: 4th Oct during the 8.30 am Service **OR** bring your pets to the church grounds any time between 9.30 am & 10 am for a personal blessing. Stay for a cuppa afterwards.

Good Shepherd Rainbow Beach: 11th Oct during the 9.30 am service **OR** come to the church grounds between 10.30 am & 11 am for a personal blessing. Stay for a cuppa afterwards.

MU Gathering: St Peter's at 9.30 am Tuesday, 22nd Sept.

BIRTHDAY WISHES: Katrina Parker is 70 this Saturday – Best wishes for your day.

THIS WEEK: **Sun:** 8.30 am & 5.30 pm Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Christian Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service. | **Thurs:** 1 pm Bible Study

Sunday's 5.30 pm ZOOM Link: Zoom information is the same each week

Web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7246788483> **Meeting ID: 724 678 8483**

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Anne Brown; Pam Dorman; Jill, Holly & Alby; Christian Ford; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel; Val McClurg; Jeanette Penny; Daniel Saunders; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

Thanksgiving for the life of: Jean Willis. *Jean's funeral will held at St Peter's on 1st Oct.*

How to contribute to our Church financially

Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Accnt Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Accnt No.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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