

First Reading: *(Isa 55:6-9)* “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

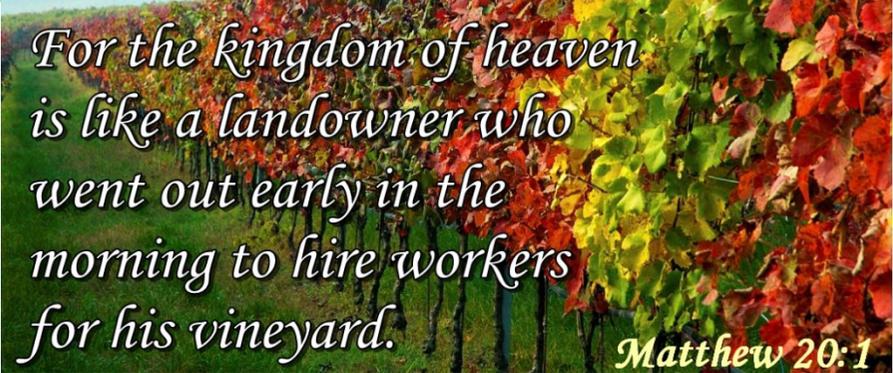
R./ The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading: *(Phil 1:20b-24, 27)*

Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in

the flesh is more necessary on your account. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

Gospel: *(Mt 20:1-16)* “Jesus said to his disciples, “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no



*For the kingdom of heaven
is like a landowner who
went out early in the
morning to hire workers
for his vineyard.*

Matthew 20:1

one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, '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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

Reflection: We enjoy the generosity of God towards us but we become intolerant when God is generous with our fellow human beings. Whenever we discuss about topics such as equality and fairness, we need to check the motive behind our thought process. Very often our prejudice prevent us from appreciating the goodness in others. We are eager to judge the actions of others but fail to appreciate their goodness. Why do we always want everything for ourselves and not for others? Is the growth or talents or gifts in others make us uncomfortable? Do we acknowledge the generosity of the people around us? It is a time to introspect our attitudes towards others. **When we are open and generous we can appreciate the generosity and goodness of the people around.**