

Proper 21, Year A – Track 1

The Collect:

Rite I:

O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Rite II:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament: Exodus 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 quarreled 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 for 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 quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- ¹ Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- ³ That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- ⁴ We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- ¹² He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- ¹³ He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- ¹⁴ He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- ¹⁵ He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- ¹⁶ He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and
trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work
for his good pleasure.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When 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.

³² For 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.

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