

## **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, July 26, 2020**

**The Collect:** O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Genesis 29:15-28 or 1 Kings 3:5-12 both will be read from the World English Bible**

#### **Genesis**

15 Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what will your wages be?"

16 Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and attractive.

18 Jacob loved Rachel. He said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter."

19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you, than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."

20 Jacob served seven years for Rachel. They seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had for her.

21 Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

22 Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. 23 In the evening, he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to Jacob. He went in to her. 24 Laban gave Zilpah his servant to his daughter Leah for a servant. 25 In the morning, behold, it was Leah! He said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Didn't I serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"

26 Laban said, "It is not done so in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn.

27 Fulfill the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you will serve with me for seven more years."

28 Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week. He gave him Rachel his daughter as wife. 2

#### **The Word of the Lord**

**Alternate: 1 Kings 3: 5 – 12 read from the World English Bible**

5 In Gibeon, Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask for what I should give you.”

6 Solomon said, “You have shown to your servant David my father great loving kindness, because he walked before you in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with you. You have kept for him this great loving kindness, that you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today. 7 Now, Yahweh my God, you have made your servant king instead of David my father. I am just a little child. I don’t know how to go out or come in. 8 Your servant is among your people which you have chosen, a great people, that can’t be numbered or counted for multitude. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

10 This request pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 God said to him, “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have you asked for riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your word. Behold, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, and after you none will arise like you.

The Word of the Lord

**Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 or Psalm 119:129-136 all will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

**Psalm 105 1 – 11**

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*  
    make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
    and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
    let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; \*  
    continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,  
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.  
7 He is the Lord our God; \*  
his judgments prevail in all the world.  
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, \*  
the promise he made for a thousand generations:  
9 The covenant he made with Abraham, \*  
the oath that he swore to Isaac,  
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \*  
an everlasting covenant for Israel,  
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan \*  
to be your allotted inheritance."  
45b Hallelujah!

### **Or Psalm 128**

1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, \*  
and who follow in his ways!  
2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.  
3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your table.  
4 The man who fears the Lord \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.  
5 The Lord bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.  
6 May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.

### **Or: Psalm 119: 129- 136**

129 Your decrees are wonderful; \*

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; \*  
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; \*  
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, \*  
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; \*  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, \*  
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant \*  
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, \*  
because people do not keep your law.

### **Epistle: Romans 8:26-39 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible**

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. 27 And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; 34 who is to

condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For thy sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 read from the Amplified Bible**

31 He gave them another parable to consider, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; 32 and of all the seeds [planted in the region] it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air find shelter in its branches.”

33 He told them another parable, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and worked into three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a [very precious] treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field [securing the treasure for himself].

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which was lowered into the sea, and

gathered fish of every kind, 48 and when it was full, they dragged it up on the beach; and they sat down and sorted out the good fish into baskets, but the worthless ones they threw away. 49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw the wicked into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

51 “Have you understood all these things [in the lessons of the parables]?” They said to Jesus, “Yes.” 52 He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things that are new and fresh and things that are old and familiar.”

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On July 27th we remember William Reed Huntington, Priest. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

“First presbyter of the Church,” was the well-deserved, if unofficial, title of the sixth rector of Grace Church, New York City. Huntington provided a leadership characterized by breadth, generosity, scholarship, and boldness. He was the acknowledged leader in the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church’s General Convention during a period of intense stress and conflict within the Church. His reconciling spirit helped preserve the unity of The Episcopal Church in the painful days after the beginning of the schism, led by the Assistant Bishop of Kentucky, which resulted in the formation of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

In the House of Deputies, of which he was a member from 1871 until 1907, Huntington showed active and pioneering vision in making daring proposals. As early as 1871, his motion to revive the primitive order of “deaconesses” began a long struggle, which culminated in 1889 in canonical authorization for that order. Huntington’s parish immediately provided facilities for this new ministry, and Huntington House became a training center for deaconesses and other women workers in the Church.

Christian unity was Huntington’s great passion throughout his ministry. In his book, *The Church Idea* (1870), he attempted to articulate the essentials of Christian unity. The grounds

he proposed as a basis for unity were presented to, and accepted by, the House of Bishops in Chicago in 1886, and, with some slight modification, were adopted by the Lambeth Conference in 1888. The “Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral” has become a historic landmark for the Anglican Communion. It is included on pages 876–878 of the Book of Common Prayer, among the Historical Documents of the Church.

In addition to his roles as ecumenist and statesman, Huntington is significant as a liturgical scholar. It was his bold proposal to revise the Prayer Book that led to the revision of 1892, providing a hitherto unknown flexibility and significant enrichment. His Collect for Monday in Holy Week, now used also for Fridays at Morning Prayer, is itself an example of skillful revision. In it he takes two striking clauses from the exhortation to the sick in the 1662 Prayer Book, and uses them as part of a prayer for grace to follow the Lord in his sufferings.

**Let us pray:** O Lord our God, we thank you for instilling in the heart of your servant William Reed Huntington a fervent love for your Church and its mission in the world; and we pray that, with unflagging faith in your promises, we may make known to all people your blessed gift of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**