

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Oct. 6

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible

The Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Job 1:1; 2:1-10

1 There was a man in the country of Uz named Job. He was a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned away from evil.

2 One day the sons of God came again to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before the Lord. 2 The Lord asked Satan, "Where have you come from?"

"From roaming through the earth," Satan answered Him, "and walking around on it."

3 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited Me against him, to destroy him without just cause."

4 "Skin for skin!" Satan answered the Lord. "A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

6 “Very well,” the Lord told Satan, “he is in your power; only spare his life.” 7 So Satan left the Lord’s presence and infected Job with terrible boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself while he sat among the ashes.

9 His wife said to him, “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!”

10 “You speak as a foolish woman speaks,” he told her. “Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?” Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 26

- 1 Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.
- 9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, *
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

10 Whose hands are full of evil plots, *

and their right hand full of bribes.

11 As for me, I will live with integrity; *

redeem me, O Lord, and have pity on me.

12 My foot stands on level ground; *

in the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

Track 2 Old Testament: Genesis 2:18-24

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement." 19 So the Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found as his complement. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the Lord God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone

and flesh of my flesh;

this one will be called "woman,"

for she was taken from man.

24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 8

1 O Lord our Governor, *

how exalted is your Name in all the world!

2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

1 Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. 2 In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. 4 So He became higher in rank than the angels, just as the name He inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For He has not subjected to angels the world to come that we are talking about. 6 But one has somewhere testified:

What is man that You remember him,
or the son of man that You care for him?
7 You made him lower than the angels

for a short time;
You crowned him with glory and honor
8 and subjected everything under his feet.

For in subjecting everything to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. As it is, we do not yet see everything subjected to him. 9 But we do see Jesus—made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone—crowned with glory and honor because of His suffering in death.

10 For in bringing many sons to glory, it was entirely appropriate that God—all things exist for Him and through Him—should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying:

I will proclaim Your name to My brothers;
I will sing hymns to You in the congregation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

2 Some Pharisees approached Him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

3 He replied to them, "What did Moses command you?"

4 They said, "Moses permitted us to write divorce papers and send her away."

5 But Jesus told them, "He wrote this command for you because of the hardness of your hearts. 6 But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female.

7 For this reason a man will leave
his father and mother

and be joined to his wife,
8 and the two will become one flesh.

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

10 Now in the house the disciples questioned Him again about this matter. 11 And He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. 12 Also, if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

13 Some people were bringing little children to Him so He might touch them, but His disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me. Don’t stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I assure you: Whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16 After taking them in His arms, He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord

On October 8 we celebrate the life of William Dwight Porter Bliss, Priest, and Richard Theodore Ely, Economist. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

Richard Theodore Ely was born in 1854 in Ripley, New York. The son of Presbyterians, he became an Episcopalian while working on his undergraduate degree at Columbia. After receiving his doctorate in economics at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, he taught at Johns Hopkins University and then at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was appointed Professor of Economics at Northwestern in 1925.

In 1894, Ely was accused of teaching socialist principles, and an effort was made to remove him from this professorship. Ely, who rejected the extremes of both capitalism and socialism, argued for competition with regulation that would raise the moral and ethical level of economic practice.

Ely claimed that the gospel was social rather than individualistic in nature, and he consistently called The Episcopal Church to reform capitalism for the rights and dignity of the American worker. He was one of the founders of the Christian Social Union, and served as its Secretary. Ely's principles influenced his friend Walter Rauschenbusch, a major figure in the Social Gospel Movement. Ely also advocated for more frequent celebration and reception of the Eucharist, seeing a direct connection between his social views and their sacramental grounding.

Ely died in Old Lyme, Connecticut, on October 4, 1943.

William Dwight Porter Bliss was born in Constantinople, Turkey, on August 20, 1856, the son of Christian missionaries. Like R.T. Ely, Bliss believed that the Church was called to work for economic justice, the principles of which were grounded in the gospel. Originally ordained a Congregationalist minister, in 1886 he became an Episcopal deacon and was ordained to the priesthood the next year. He served parishes in Massachusetts, California, and New York before organizing the first Christian Socialist Society in the United States in 1899. Bliss consistently claimed that economic justice, for which all Christians were responsible, was "rooted and grounded in Christ, the liberator, the head of humanity."

Bliss wrote widely on the relationship between faith and economic justice. Among his written works are *The Encyclopedia of Social Reform* (1898) and *The Hand-Book of Socialism* (1895).

In 1914, he travelled to Switzerland on behalf of the YMCA and served there as a pastor until 1921.

Bliss died on October 8, 1926.

Let us pray: Blessed God, whose Son Jesus came as servant to all: We thank you for William Bliss and Richard Ely, whose dedication to the commonweal through economic justice led them to be bold reformers of the world and the Church; and we pray that we, with them, may find our true happiness through self-sacrifice in service of your reign, where all

the hungry are fed and the downtrodden are raised up, through Jesus Christ our Liberator;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**