

**INTRODUCTION: (COMMENTATOR):**

Good morning/evening.

Each of us comes to this holy place seeking to strengthen our relationship with the living God, who is generous in forgiving. It is difficult to grasp just how deep is the mercy and love of God.

As we prepare ourselves to listen to God's word and to share in the Eucharist, let us give praise and thanks to God, in whose image and likeness we were created.

**FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah:

Seek God while God may be found,  
call upon God while God is near.  
Let the scoundrels forsake their ways,  
and the wicked their thoughts;  
let them return to God for mercy,  
to Our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says our God.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.”

The word of God.            R/. Thanks be to God.

*(leave the microphone on)*

**SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)**

**Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters,

Christ will be magnified in my body,  
whether by life or by death.

For to me, life is Christ, and death is gain.  
If I go on living in the flesh,  
that means fruitful labor for me.  
And I do not know which I shall choose.  
I am caught between the two:  
I long to depart this life and be with Christ,  
for that is far better;  
Yet that I remain in the flesh  
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL:            Matthew 20:1-16a**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The realm of heaven is like a landowner  
who went out at dawn to hire laborers for the vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage,  
the landowner sent them into the vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock,  
the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace,  
and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard,  
and I will give you what is just.'

So they went off.

And the owner went out again around noon,  
and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around,  
and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'

They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.'

The landowner said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to the manager,  
'Summon the laborers and give them their pay,  
beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

When those who had started about five o'clock came,  
each received the usual daily wage.

So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,  
but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,  
'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us,  
who bore the day's burden and the heat.'

He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you.

Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?

Take what is yours and go.

What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?

Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?

Are you envious because I am generous?'

Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

R/. Praise to you, O Jesus Christ

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: ( COMMENTATOR)**

Presider: We are reminded today that God is near to all who call.  
We turn now to our generous God, praying for all in need.

Lector: That the churches will welcome all who come to the Lord's vineyard,  
whoever they are and whatever the hour, we pray:

That the public policies of the world's nations and cities may seek  
to uphold the dignity of every woman, man, and child, we pray:

That all who suffer this very day from fires, floods and famine, from  
violence and war, from the physical and economic impact of the  
pandemic, may find hope and relief through the actions of caring people  
in this nation and around the world, we pray:

That this Eucharistic assembly may be the gospel's model of  
community in which there are neither first nor last but only sisters  
and brothers in Christ, we pray:

For what else would we like to pray this morning? I invite you to unmute  
your mikes so we can pray with you now.

*Allow time for people to offer their prayers. When the sharing has slowed, complete with these or your own words:*

O God of boundless love and mercy, listen to the prayer of your  
people. Make us generous stewards of the abundant gifts given to  
us through Christ Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Savior.  
Amen

## **CLOSING PRAYER: ( Fr. Jerry)**

### **Prayer of the Farm Workers' Struggle**

Show me the suffering of the most miserable; So I will know my people's plight.  
Free me to pray for others; For you are present in every person.  
Help me to take responsibility for my own life; So that I can be free at last.  
Grant me courage to serve others; For in service there is true life.  
Give me honesty and patience; So that I can work with other workers.  
Bring forth song and celebration; So that the spirit will be alive among us.  
Let the spirit flourish and grow; So we will never tire of the struggle.  
Let us remember those who have died for justice; For they have given us life.  
Help us love even those who hate us; So we can change the world.

*Written by Cesar E. Chavez, UFW Founder (1927-1993)*

### **Oracion del Campesino en la Lucha**

Ensename el sufrimiento de los mas desafortunados;  
Asi conocere el dolor de mi pueblo.  
Librame a orar por los demas;  
orque estas presente en cada persona.  
Ayudame a tomar responsabilidad de mi propia vida;  
Solo asi sere libre al fin.  
Concedeme valentia para servir al projimo; Porque en la entrega hay vida verdadera.  
Concedeme honradez y paciencia;  
Para que yo pueda trabajar junto con otros trabajadores.  
Alumbranos con el canto y la celebracion; Para que levanten el Espiritu entre nosotros.  
Que el Espiritu florezca y crezca; Para que no nos cansemos entre la lucha.  
Nos acordamos de los que han caido por la justicia;  
Porque a nosotros han entregado la vida.  
Ayudanos a amar aun a los que nos odian;  
Asi podremos cambiar el mundo.

*Escrito por Cesar E. Chavez, Fundador de la UFW (1927-1993)*