

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



***Workers in the Vineyard* Rembrandt 1637**

works are the products of faith, and given joyfully in thanks and praise to God for all that He has done for us. However our Salvation was gained for us by Christ, who was the only person that could pay the full penalty for all our sins. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that we are able to trust in His redeeming act on the cross that we are saved. As it is said many times in scripture: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."*

The Lessons: Isaiah 55:6–9, Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30, & Matthew 20:1–16

Those who are sent as *"laborers for his vineyard"* (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear *"the burden of the day and the scorching heat"* on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that *"he may be found"* (Is. 55:6), *"have compassion"* and *"abundantly pardon"* (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, *"whether by life or by death"* (Phil. 1:20), by *"fruitful labor"* (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are *"worthy of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:27).

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Background:

As we approach the end of the church year, we get very serious on what matters to enter eternal life. While the answer is simple, many have added good works, special actions or pilgrimages or charitable gifts as necessary for eternal life. Such good