

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 145

Response: “O God, you are near. We call to you. You are near.”

Today’s readings focus on how God’s ways are infinitely different from ours.

- What we see as justice is different from God’s way of justice.
- We believe that if we work a full day, we should receive a full day’s pay. If we work ½ a day we get half the pay.
- God believes we are all deserving of the same. We are all deserving of his love equally.

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 (*This is a reading from the prophet of Isaiah.*)

In today’s first reading, Isaiah speaks to the people about praying to God. He says we need to look for God while he is close to us. If we do evil things, we need to change what we are doing and come back to God. God will always forgive us. He reminds us that God does not always think the way we do. God tells us, “my ways are high above your ways”.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading we hear another of Jesus’ parables. The parable of the vineyard owner. This parable helps us to understand what the reign of God will be like. The story tells of a vineyard owner who went out one morning to hire workers to pick his grapes. The workers and the owner agreed on what they thought was a fair wage for a day’s work. Later, that day the owner went out and hired more workers to pick for him. He offered to pay them what was fair. They agreed and went into his vineyard. As the day went on, he hired more workers. Around 5:00 the owner saw people in the town who were not working. He asked them why and they answered no one has hired us. The owner said, “I will hire you. Go now to my vineyard and work for me.”

That evening it was time for the owner to pay everyone. He called those he had hired last and paid them first. He paid them for the entire day. Those who started work earlier in the day thought they would be paid more for surely, they deserved it. But the owner of the vineyard paid them all the same amount. The workers that had worked all day in the hot sun became

angry when they received the same pay as the others. The owner of the vineyard asked them if they had not agreed on what they would be paid. They had and the owner paid them that amount. The owner then said to them, "Am I not free to do what I want with my own money?" "Or are you angry because I am generous and kind?"

Helping the Children to Reflect:

During Jesus time many believed that only certain people were loved by God. They thought that people who sinned or believed different things were not loved by God. Only they were worthy of being loved by God. They are like the people who worked all day and felt they should be paid more than the others.

Jesus wants us to know that God loves those who try to do good. Some people take a long time before they can do what is right. God loves everyone, even loves those who come last and say, "I want to try too!"

"Treat people as you would like them to treat you."