

**July 30th 2023**

## **Collect**

O God, the fount of wisdom,  
you have revealed to us in Christ  
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:  
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,  
that, in the midst of the things of this world,  
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,  
and be ready to renounce all else  
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **1st Reading**

### **Genesis 29:15-28**

**15** Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

**16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

**17** Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful.

**18** Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

**19** Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me."

**20** So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

**21** Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."

**22** So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. **23** But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her.

**24** And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

**25** When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

**26** Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

**27** Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

**28** And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

**29** Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant.

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 128**

**1** Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.

**2** You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

**3** Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

**4** Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.

**5** May the LORD bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**6** May you live to see your children’s children— peace be on Israel.

### **2nd Reading**

#### **Romans 8:26-39**

**26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

**27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

**28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

**34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died— more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

**35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

**36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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 convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

**39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 13:44-58**

**44** “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

**45** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine

pearls. **46** When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

**47** “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

**48** When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

**49** This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous

**50** and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**51** “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. **52** He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

**53** When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.

**54** Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked.

**55** “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?

**56** Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

**57** And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.”

**58** And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.