

July 25 - 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from First Kings

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night,
and God said, "Ask what I should give you."
And Solomon said,
"You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness,
and in uprightness of heart toward you,
and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love
and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.
And now, O Lord my God,
you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.
And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.
Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil,
for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.
God said to him,
"Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself
long life or riches or for the life of your enemies
but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
I now do according to your word.
Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind;
no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

(pause)

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from Romans

What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us,
how will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn?
It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised,
who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.