

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 21

September 27, 2026

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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Humility

St. Bede Church, Pittsburgh, 20th century.

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Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

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- ❖ I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
- ❖ We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious

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- ❖ In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- ❖ He divided the sea and let them pass through it and made the waters stand like a heap.
- ❖ In the daytime he led them with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light.
- ❖ He split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- ❖ He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Philippians 2:1-13 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in

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Psalm 25:1-9

- ❖ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- ❖ O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
- ❖ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- ❖ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
- ❖ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- ❖ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- ❖ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- ❖ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
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Texts in gray Alternate first reading and Psalm

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 21

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Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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Matthew 21:23-32 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

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