

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 30 JULY 2023

**FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28** Jacob works 14 years to marry

<sup>15</sup> 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.' <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder one was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah had weak<sup>[a]</sup> eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, 'I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.' <sup>19</sup> Laban said, 'It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.' <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. <sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.' <sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. <sup>25</sup> 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?' <sup>26</sup> Laban replied, 'It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the elder one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.' <sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

**PSALM 105:1-11,45b**

<sup>1</sup> Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. <sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. <sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. <sup>4</sup> Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. <sup>5</sup> Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, <sup>6</sup> you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob. <sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. <sup>8</sup> He remembers his covenant for ever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, <sup>9</sup> the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. <sup>10</sup> He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: <sup>11</sup> 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.' <sup>45</sup> that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the LORD.<sup>[a]</sup>

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39** Nothing can separate us from the love of God

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God

works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[a]</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[c]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> 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 13:31-33,44-52** Parables of the kingdom

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’ <sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough.’ <sup>44</sup> ‘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. <sup>45</sup> ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> ‘Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup> ‘Have you understood all these things?’ Jesus asked. ‘Yes,’ they replied. <sup>52</sup> 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.’