

nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
1:20c-24, 27a*

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life
or by death.

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

If I go on living in the flesh,
that means fruitful labor for me.

And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two.

I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better.

Yet that I remain in the flesh
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’

So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’