

## **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 1**

**The Collect:** O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7 read from the Holman Christian Bible**

The entire Israelite community left the Wilderness of Sin, moving from one place to the next according to the Lord's command. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So the people complained to Moses, "Give us water to drink."

"Why are you complaining to me?" Moses replied to them. "Why are you testing the Lord?"

But the people thirsted there for water, and grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What should I do with these people? In a little while they will stone me!"

The Lord answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go. I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \* incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \* I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, \* we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \* and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \* in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \* he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, \* and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \* and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \* and the waters gushed out like rivers.

### **Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13 read from the International Children's Bible**

Does your life in Christ give you strength? Does his love comfort you? Do we share together in the Spirit? Do you have mercy and kindness? If so, make me very happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and having one mind and purpose. When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.

In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.

Christ himself was like God in everything. He was equal with God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be held on to. He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God. He obeyed even when that caused his death—death on a cross.

So God raised Christ to the highest place. God made the name of Christ greater than every other name. God wants every knee to bow to Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Everyone will say, “Jesus Christ is Lord” and bring glory to God the Father.

My dear friends, you have always obeyed. You obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am not with you. Keep on working to complete your salvation, and do it with fear and trembling. Yes, God is working in you to help you want to do what pleases him. Then he gives you the power to do it.

## **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32 read from read from The King James Version Bible**

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: on October 3rd we remember John Raleigh Mott evangelist and Ecumenical Pioneer. Portions read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

John Mott was born in Livingston Manor, New York, on May 25, 1865. His family moved to Iowa in September of that same year. After graduating from Cornell University in 1888, Mott became student secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA and chairman of the executive committee of the Student Volunteer Movement. In 1895, he became General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) serving until 1920. From 1920 until 1928 he was the Chairperson of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). In 1901, he was appointed the Assistant General Secretary of the YMCA. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson appointed him to the National War Work Council, for which he received the Distinguished Service Medal.

Mott, an American Methodist layperson, presided at the 1910 World Missionary Conference, which launched both the modern Protestant missions movement and some say the modern ecumenical movement. For his labors in both missions and ecumenism, as well as for peace, some historians consider him to be "the most widely traveled and universally trusted Christian leader of his time". He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for his work in establishing and strengthening international organizations which worked to promote peace. Intimately involved in the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948, that body elected him as a life-long honorary President. His best-known book, *The Evangelization of the World in this Generation*, became a missionary slogan in the early 20th century. Although Mott was a Methodist, the Episcopal Church recognized his work by making him an honorary canon of the National Cathedral. Mott died in 1955.

**Let us pray:** O God, the shepherd of all, we give you thanks for the lifelong commitment of your servant John Raleigh Mott to the Christian nurture of students in many parts of the world; and we pray that, after his example, we may strive for the weaving together of all peoples in friendship, fellowship and cooperation, and while life lasts be evangelists for Jesus Christ, in whom alone is our peace; and who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**