

# THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2020

## The Collect

### *Traditional*

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church, and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succor, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *Contemporary*

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Old Testament Lesson

### *Nehemiah 9:16-20*

Ezra blessed the Lord, and said, "Our ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their necks and did not obey your commandments; they refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; but they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them. Even when they had cast an image of a calf for themselves and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night that gave them light on the way by which they should go. You gave your good spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and gave them water for their thirst.

### Psalm 78:14-20, 23-25

<sup>14</sup>He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.  
<sup>15</sup>He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.  
<sup>16</sup>He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.  
<sup>17</sup>But they went on sinning against him, \*  
rebellng in the desert against the Most High.  
<sup>18</sup>They tested God in their hearts, \*  
demanding food for their craving.  
<sup>19</sup>They railed against God and said, \*  
“Can God set a table in the wilderness?”  
<sup>20</sup>True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out, and the  
gullies overflowed; \*  
but is he able to give bread  
or to provide meat for his people?”  
<sup>23</sup>So he commanded the clouds above \*  
and opened the doors of heaven.  
<sup>24</sup>He rained down manna upon them to eat \*  
and gave them grain from heaven.  
<sup>25</sup>So mortals ate the bread of angels; \*  
he provided for them food enough.

### The Epistle

*Romans 8:35-39*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors 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.

### The Gospel

*Matthew 14:13-21*

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.