

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 15, 2017



## *THE LESSON* Exodus 32:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The people saw that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come on! Make us gods who can lead us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't have a clue what has happened to him."

<sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, "All right, take out the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup>So all the people took out the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He collected them and tied them up in a cloth. Then he made a metal image of a bull calf, and the people declared, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

<sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf. Then Aaron announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!" <sup>6</sup>They got up early the next day and offered up entirely burned offerings and brought well-being sacrifices. The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to celebrate.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses: "Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! <sup>8</sup>They've already abandoned

the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I've been watching these people, and I've seen how stubborn they are. <sup>10</sup>Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I'll make a great nation out of you."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, "LORD, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth'? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, 'I'll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I've promised to give your descendants this whole land to possess for all time.'" <sup>14</sup>Then the LORD changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people.

**THE RESPONSE Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever.

**<sup>2</sup>Who could possibly repeat all of the LORD's mighty acts or publicly recount all his praise?**

<sup>3</sup>The people who uphold justice, who always do what is right, are truly happy!

**<sup>4</sup>Remember me, LORD, with the favor you show your people. Visit me with your saving help**

<sup>5</sup>so I can experience the good things your chosen ones experience, so I can rejoice in the joy of your nation, so I can praise along with your possession.

**<sup>6</sup>We have sinned—right along with our ancestors. We've done what is wrong. We've acted wickedly. . . .**

<sup>19</sup>They made a calf at Horeb, bowing down to a metal idol. <sup>20</sup>They traded their glorious God for an image of a bull that eats grass.

**<sup>21</sup>They forgot the God who saved them—the one who had done great things in Egypt,**

<sup>22</sup>wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome deeds at the Reed Sea.

**<sup>23</sup>So God determined that he would destroy them—except for the fact that Moses, his chosen one, stood in the way, right in front of him, and turned God's destructive anger away.**

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**THE EPISTLE Philippians 4:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

Loved ones, <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I'm also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

<sup>4</sup>Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Don't be

anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. <sup>7</sup>Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup>Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

**THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other servants and said to them, 'Tell those who have been invited, 'Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!' ' <sup>5</sup>But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. <sup>6</sup>The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

<sup>7</sup>"The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding

party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.'

<sup>10</sup>"Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. <sup>11</sup>Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup>He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'

<sup>14</sup>"Many people are invited, but few people are chosen."