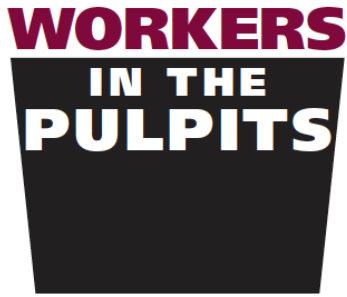


# **LABOR DAY**

**FOR  
WORKERS**





# CATHOLIC PARISH TOOLKIT

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**REGISTER YOUR EVENT AT:**  
<http://bit.ly/2015labordayservice>

## INTRODUCTION

Interfaith Worker Justice believes that people of faith are an integral part of the effort to guarantee that all workers are treated with dignity and respect. As corporations, unions, worker advocates and workers seek to cooperate and build together, the religious community can urge and help them grow in a moral context.

Since 1996, thousands of congregations have spent Labor Day doing this important work. From San Diego to New York, religious communities focus Labor Day weekend services on the injustices facing low-wage workers and the religious community's efforts to support those workers' struggles for living wages, family-sustaining benefits, and for dignity and respect on the job. Participating congregations integrate worker justice themes into their services, and many invite a worker from within their congregation, a union member or worker advocate to be a guest on Labor Day weekend.

Through Labor in the Pulpits, congregations have the opportunity to talk about the connections between faith, work, and justice. This toolkit offers some introductory resources to help celebrate Labor Day in your community. If your worship service or congregation's tradition does not accommodate outside speakers, you could have someone speak before or after the service, or at adult or teen education classes. If you would like more information on how to become a speaker or host a speaker, please e-mail [info@iwj.org](mailto:info@iwj.org).



## GETTING STARTED

There are different ways to plan a Labor Day service that lifts up workers within your community and around the country. The suggestions below can help you get started. Many of these can be incorporated into groups and programs that already exist in your congregation.

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*“Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities.”*

- Pope Francis

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**LABOR  
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- Connect with your local federation of labor or Interfaith Worker Justice affiliate. Many IWJ affiliates have strong Labor in the Pulpit programs. Reach out to one in your area. A list of affiliates is available at [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org).
- Invite a speaker (worker, union leader, worker advocate). Recruit someone from your community to speak on Labor Day weekend. If no one is available, IWJ and our affiliates can match your congregation with a guest speaker for Labor Day weekend. For more information, e-mail [info@iwj.org](mailto:info@iwj.org)
- Focus on education. Labor Day weekend offers congregations the opportunity to highlight and lift up issues that impact workers within the community. Immigration reform, minimum wage, health and safety, dignity at worker, low-wage worker organizing and wage theft are among the topics that your congregation can focus on. Issue and campaign-specific resources are included in this toolkit. Additional resources are also available at [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org).
- Get the word out. Promote your Labor Day service in your congregation’s bulletin and/or newsletter. IWJ will help promote events registered here: <http://bit.ly/2015labordayservice>
- Develop a worship planning committee. A worship committee can explore creative ways to integrate worker justice themes into the service either by using resources included in this toolkit or creating their own.
- Lead a worker justice bible study. Throughout the month of September, have someone (maybe you!) teach a Bible study or lead a prayer group focusing on labor and faith.
- Honor an outstanding member (or members) congregation. Lift up the good work of members of your community. Honor a church worker, volunteer or an outstanding member with a gift to IWJ. We will send you certificates to hand out.

## PUBLICITY AND MEDIA OUTREACH

*Worker in the Pulpits* provides a great opportunity for labor groups, worker advocates and faith communities to collaborate and lift up issues that impact workers, especially those in low-wage jobs. Below are a few tips on engaging the broader community.

- Register your event with IWJ. In the weeks leading up to Labor Day weekend, IWJ will actively promote services planned around the country. Include yours in the list: <http://bit.ly/2015labordayservice>
  - Promote your Labor Day service in your congregation's bulletin and/ or newsletter. Sample language is available below. Visit [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org) to download Labor Day images.
  - Inform local media about the event. Invite members of the media to your Labor Day event. Highlight issues – minimum wage, wage theft – that are already getting coverage.
- Select a spokesperson from your congregation. Have a “point person” for media interviews who might share personal stories about worker justice or reflections about Labor Day.

### Sample blurb for congregation newsletter:

#### ***Celebrate The Sacredness of Work***

On \_\_\_\_\_, we will join with congregations across the nation in lifting up and honoring the sacred link between work and faith. This is an opportunity to educate ourselves about the issues that impact workers, especially those in low-wage jobs, and reflect on the true meaning of Labor Day.

[Name of speaker] will join us to speak on what it means to be a person of faith and a [worker, worker advocate].

### ***Sample News Advisory***

(Print on your letterhead.)

For Immediate Release

**a** <Enter date here>

Contact:

<Name, E-mail, Phone number>



#### **Celebrating the Sacred Link Between Faith, Justice, and Work [Worker/Labor leader/worker rights activist] brings [issue] to the pulpit on Labor Day Weekend**

WHAT: [Congregation] will join more than 500 congregations across the country in honoring workers and lifting up worker struggles this Labor Day weekend. The service is part of the annual ***Worker in the Pulpit*** program hosted by national worker rights organization, Interfaith Worker Justice, and its network of affiliates.

Presentations will celebrate the ever-growing relationship between faith and worker rights and their efforts to not only uplift the efforts of past labor leaders and workers, but also to educate people shine light on the oppressive working conditions and poverty wages millions of workers are forced to endure, educate workers' about their rights in the workplace, give life to living wage ordinances throughout the country, highlight anti-wage theft efforts, and a host of other initiatives that honor and respect the innate dignity of all workers.

WHO: [Speaker] will talk about [issue].

WHEN: [Specific date and time of your service]

WHERE: [Your church's address]

WHY: [Include additional information regarding particular issues impacting your community and why it is important for people of faith to be involved.]

###

## SPEAKER'S GUIDE

### 1. Call the pastor/rabbi/imam as soon as you are assigned. Ask him/ her:

- What time does the service start?
- At what point in the service will I be speaking, and how long a talk is appropriate?
- How do I get there?
- Which scripture readings/texts the congregation will use.
- The justice activities, minis- tries and relevant history of the congregation.

### 2. Getting there:

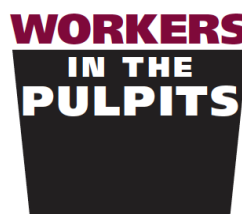
- Dress appropriately.
- Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins.
- Identify yourself to the pastor/Rabbi/imam. Thank him/ her.
- Ask where you should sit and where you will be speaking from (some congregations have more than one pulpit).
- Get a sense of the sound system, acoustics, and lighting.

### 3. Final reminders for giving your presentation:

- Speak slowly, loudly and clearly.
- Be brief.
- Be well prepared.
- Be creative.
- Introduce yourself and clarify why you care about worker issues.
- Keep your presentation within the allotted time frame.
- Talk about your own experiences. It is far more important to believe what you are saying than to be eloquent.

### 4. Once you have finished:

- Take a deep breath and smile!
- Thank the pastor, rabbi or imam.
- Greet people after the service. This is a great opportunity to chat informally with people who are interested in worker and workplace issues.



### *Sample Outline*

1. Introduction and thanks to the congregation
2. Reason for speaking
  - Labor Day is an opportunity for people of faith to recognize God's commitment to justice.
  - Reminder that Labor Day is a hard-earned holiday coming out of the struggles of working people for the eight-hour day and the right to organize unions.
3. Tie Labor Day to the lectionary, other Biblical readings, or the appropriate faith group statement on the right to organize.
4. Describe the importance of unions and worker centers in light of a current situation.
  - Tell a personal story of how unions or worker centers have had a positive impact on you, your family and community.
  - Offer up a historical perspective of unions and worker organizing: Unions are responsible for benefits we often take for granted, such as the eight-hour day, the end of child labor, the public school system and pensions.
5. Emphasize the importance of the religious community, unions and worker centers working together. Corporations and unions work most effectively when they can cooperate and build together. The religious community can urge them both and help them grow in a moral context.

This isn't a just a fight for better pay... at the end of the day, it's about human dignity and respect at work.



# NEXT STEPS:

How you and your congregation can stand with workers

- **PRAY** for all workers, especially those in low-wage and unsafe jobs. Pray also for employers and business owners, that they may all learn to value people over profit. Pray for our elected leaders, that they place those struggling on the margins at the center of their deliberations.
- **LISTEN**, learn and educate yourself and other members of your community on worker and economic justice issues. Connect with an interfaith affiliate and/or worker center in your area. Visit [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org) for resources on faith and labor, and to find an IWJ affiliate near you.
- **ORGANIZE** a worker rights workshop at your congregation to learn how Catholic Social Teachings apply to worker rights in your city. E-mail [info@iwj.org](mailto:info@iwj.org) for resources and training ideas.
- **PAY AND TREAT WORKERS WELL.** Seek to ensure that all the workers employed by your congregation are paid wages that can support families and provide family health coverage.
- **DEVELOP** a construction policy for your congregation that awards repairs and construction work to contractors and subcontractors that treat workers justly.
- **ADVOCATE** for public policies that protect and advance the rights of ALL workers, including a living wage and paid sick days and protections against the theft of time and money on the job.
- **SUPPORT** workers who are organizing for better wages and working conditions. Over the last few years, workers in the fast food, retail and service industries are standing up to demand dignity and respect on the job. Be inspired by the courage of **OUR Walmart** members and those leading the **Fight for \$15**.
- **SHOP ETHICALLY.** Make an impact with your dollars. Find out how your vendors treat their employees and support those with policies that promote fairness, fair wages and respect at the workplace
- **BECOME A WORKER JUSTICE CONGREGATION.** Support IWJ's efforts to strengthen and grow its network of interfaith groups and worker centers that are building worker power and improving work place standards and fighting wage theft in cities, states and municipalities across the country.

*Take action on the ground and online. Join IWJ's e-advocacy team. Register at [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org).*

# LABOR DAY FOR WORKERS PRAYERS

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-thing, to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image for work and for Sabbath rest.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from hard labor in Egypt, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for the day when justice shall roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor. He gathered common laborers to be his disciples, and by Your Spirit he preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty those who were oppressed, and announced the year of Jubilee.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, Gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

That we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name, resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Produced by Workers Interfaith Network*

## A PRAYER FOR EMPLOYERS

by Walter Rauschenbusch  
(1910 Pilgrim Press)

We invoke thy grace and wisdom, O Lord, upon all men of good will who employ and control the labor of men. Amid the numberless irritations and anxieties of their position, help them to keep a quiet and patient temper, and to rule firmly and wisely, without harshness and anger. Since they hold power over the bread, the safety, and the hopes of the workers, may they wield their powers justly and with love, as older brothers and leaders in the great fellowship of labor. Suffer not the heavenly light of compassion for the weak and the old to be quenched in their hearts. When they are tempted to follow the ruthless ways of others, and to sacrifice human health and life for profit, do thou strengthen their will in the hour of need, and bring to naught the counsels of the heartless. Save them from repressing their workers into sullen submission and helpless fear. May they not sin against the Christ by using the bodies and souls of men as mere tools to make things, forgetting the human hearts and longings of these their brothers.

Raise up among us employers who shall be makers of men as well as of goods. Give us masters of industry who will use their higher ability and knowledge in lifting the workers to increasing independence and vigor, and who will train their helpers for the larger responsibilities of the coming age. Give us men of faith who will see beyond the strife of the present and catch a vision of nobler organization of our work, when all will still follow the leadership of the ablest, not in fear but by the glad will of all, and when none shall be master and none shall be man, but all shall stand side by side in a strong and righteous brotherhood of work.

## PRAYERS OF BLESSING THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

By Diann Neu

Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.  
Blessed be these hands that have touched life. Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity. Blessed be these hands that have held pain.  
Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.  
Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.  
Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger. Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed, mopped, scrubbed. Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.

Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and scarred from doing justice. Blessed be these hands that have reached out and been received.

Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the future. Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Left:** Show me the suffering of the most miserable; So I will know my people's plight.

**Right:** Free me to pray for others; For you are present in every person.

**Left:** Help me take responsibility for my own life; So that I can be free at last.

**Right:** Grant me courage to serve others; For in service there is true life.

**Left:** Give me honesty and patience; So that I can work with other workers.

**All:** Bring forth song and celebration; So that the Spirit will be alive among us. Let the Spirit flourish and grow; So that we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice; For they have given us life. Help us love even those who hate us; So we can change the world.

**Amen**

*Prayer of Cesar Chavez  
Adapted into litany form by April McGlothlin-Eller*

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# LABOR DAY FOR WORKERS

## LITANY

**Reader:** Friends, let us offer our prayers to God, who pronounced all creation good, who sent his Son to live and work as one like us, and who calls us to serve the poor and those oppressed. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For all those who work:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For those who are unemployed or underemployed, or have lost their jobs because of changing economic conditions, let us pray:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For those who work in hazardous conditions without sufficient protection, let us pray:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For migrant workers and all who work the land, let us pray:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For all employers that they may seek to provide a just work environment:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For those who face discrimination, harassment, or abuse in the work place, let us pray:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** For those who must balance job commitments with the needs of their family, let us pray:

**All:** Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

**Reader:** Loving God, through your Son you gave us an example to love one another as he loved us. Give us the strength to continue working to bring forth your kingdom here on earth – a kingdom of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen

## QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

“No consideration of the problems associated with development could fail to highlight the direct link between poverty and unemployment. In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or ‘because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family’”

Charity in Truth, § 63.

“Work must be an escape from poverty, not another version of it.”

A Place at the Table, §17.

“Catholic social teaching supports the rights of workers to choose whether to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively, and to exercise these rights without reprisal...workers, owners, employers and unions should work together to create decent jobs, build a more just economy, and advance the common good.”

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, §76

“Business is a vocation, and a noble vocation, provided that those engaged in it see themselves challenged by a greater meaning in life; this will enable them truly to serve the common good by striving to increase the goods of this world and to make them more accessible to all.”

The Joy of the Gospel, §203.

“The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies.”

The Joy of the Gospel, §203.

“Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a ‘disposable’ culture which is now spreading. It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society’s underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised — they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the ‘exploited’ but the out-cast, the ‘leftovers’”.

The Joy of the Gospel, §53

Source: USCCB

# WORKERS IN THE PULPITS

## LECTIONARY READINGS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectionary:128**

**Reading 1 (Isaiah 35:4-7)**

Thus says the LORD:

Say to those whose hearts are frightened:

Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

with divine recompense

he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,

the ears of the deaf be cleared;

then will the lame leap like a stag,

then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Streams will burst forth in the desert,

and rivers in the steppe.

The burning sands will become pools,

and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

**Responsorial Psalm (PS. 146:6-10)**

R. (1b) **Praise the Lord, my soul!**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The God of Jacob keeps faith forever,

secures justice for the oppressed,

gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

R. **Praise the Lord, my soul!**

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;

the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;

the LORD protects strangers.

R. **Praise the Lord, my soul!**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;

your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

R. **Praise the Lord, my soul!**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

**Reading 2 (James 2:5)**

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality

as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes

comes into your assembly,

and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in,

and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes

and say, "Sit here, please, "

while you say to the poor one, "Stand there, " or "Sit at my feet, "

have you not made distinctions among yourselves

and become judges with evil designs?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world

to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom

that he promised to those who love him?

**Alleluia (Matthew 4:23)**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom

and cured every disease among the people.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel (Mark 7:31-37)**

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre

and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee,

into the district of the Decapolis.

And people brought to him a deaf man who had

a speech impediment

and begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him off by himself away from the crowd.

He put his finger into the man's ears

and, spitting, touched his tongue;

then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said

to him,

"Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" —

And immediately the man's ears were opened,

his speech impediment was removed,

and he spoke plainly.

He ordered them not to tell anyone.

But the more he ordered them not to,

the more they proclaimed it.

They were exceedingly astonished and they said,

"He has done all things well.

He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**  
**Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time**  
**Lectionary: 437**

**Reading 1 (Colossians 1:24 - 2:3)**

Brothers and sisters:

I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
and in my flesh I am filling up  
what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ  
on behalf of his Body, which is the Church,  
of which I am a minister  
in accordance with God's stewardship given  
to me to bring to completion for you the word  
of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from  
generations past. But now it has been manifested  
to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make  
known the riches of the glory of this mystery among  
the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.  
It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone  
and teaching everyone with all wisdom,  
that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.  
For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise  
of his power working within me.

For I want you to know how great a struggle I am having  
for you and for those in Laodicea  
and all who have not seen me face to face,  
that their hearts may be encouraged  
as they are brought together in love,  
to have all the richness of assured understanding,  
for the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,  
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and  
knowledge.

**Responsorial Psalm (PS 62:6-7, 9)**

**R. (8) In God is my safety and my glory.**

Only in God be at rest, my soul,  
for from him comes my hope.  
He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.

**R. In God is my safety and my glory.**

Trust in him at all times, O my people!  
Pour out your hearts before him;  
God is our refuge!

**R. In God is my safety and my glory.**

# LABOR DAY FOR WORKERS

**Alleluia (John 10:27)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel (Luke 6:6-11)**

On a certain sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and  
taught,  
and there was a man there whose right hand was with-  
ered.

The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely  
to see if he would cure on the sabbath  
so that they might discover a reason to accuse him.  
But he realized their intentions  
and said to the man with the withered hand,  
"Come up and stand before us."

And he rose and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them,  
"I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath  
rather than to do evil,  
to save life rather than to destroy it?"

Looking around at them all, he then said to him,  
"Stretch out your hand."

He did so and his hand was restored.

But they became enraged  
and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

*Source: USCCB*

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## SUGGESTED BIBLICAL PASSAGES

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### CARING FOR ONE AN- OTHER

Jeremiah 29:4-7 "Seek the welfare of the city, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Luke 10:29-37 The Good Samaritan parable teaches us to show mercy to one another.

John 3:16-18 "Love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

I Corinthians 3:6-9 "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

II Timothy 6:18-19 "Rich people are to be generous and ready to share."

### DIGNITY AT WORK

Deuteronomy 5:13-15 The Sabbath is for every-one. It is grounded in the memory of hard labor in Egypt and the exodus from Egypt.

James 5:1-6 "Those who become rich by abusing their workers have sinned against God."

### MINIMUM WAGE

I Corinthians 12:26 "Suffering of one is suffering of all."

Proverbs 17:5 "Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who are glad at calamity will not go unpunished."

### WAGE THEFT

Leviticus 19:13 "Do not oppress your neighbor... Do not keep the wages of the worker..."

Deuteronomy 24: 14-15 "Do not take advantage of workers. Pay them their wages because they are counting on it."

Isaiah 58: 3-7 "To observe religious practices, but oppress your workers is false worship."

Jeremiah 22:13 "Woe to him who makes neighbors work for nothing and does not give them their wages."

### RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

Jeremiah 22:13-16 A legitimate government upholds the rights of the poor and vulnerable.

Amos 5:11-12,21-24 "I will not look upon your offerings because you have trampled on the poor."

Malachi 3:5 "I will be quick to testify against those who defraud laborers of their wages..." says the LORD Almighty."

Matthew 6:24 "You cannot serve God and money."

II Timothy 2:6 "The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops."

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 "Pay workers their wages regardless of where they are from."

Ruth 2:2-23 Boaz cares for Ruth, a widow and a foreigner, going beyond what the law required.

Jeremiah 34:8-14 "Treat the alien well like God treated the Israelites."

Matthew 25:41-46 The parable of the goats and sheep/Welcome the stranger

I Corinthians 12:12-13 "...we were all baptized into one body."

### JUSTICE

Deuteronomy 16:20 "Follow justice and justice alone..."

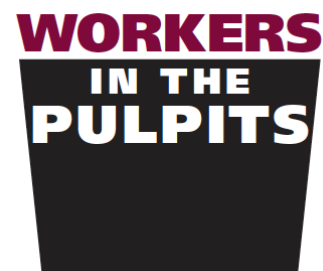
Jeremiah 21:11-12 "The Lord says to execute justice and aid the oppressed."

James 2:14-26 "Faith without works is dead."

Isaiah 1:17 "...learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

Proverbs 14:21 "Those who despise their neighbors are sinners, but happy are those who are kind to the poor."

Jeremiah 22:13-17 "...Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well..."



Thank you for bringing the issue of worker justice to the pulpits this year!

For questions and additional information, email [info@iwj.org](mailto:info@iwj.org)