

# St. John's Episcopal Church



## The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~ 10am

### Prelude

**Entrance Hymn** #573 ~ *Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation* (verses 1-3 & 5)

Father eternal, Ruler of creation,  
Spirit of life, which moved ere form was made,  
through the thick darkness covering every nation,  
light to our blindness, O be thou our aid:

*Refrain: Thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.*

Races and peoples, lo, we stand divided,  
and, sharing not our griefs, no joy can share;  
by wars and tumults love is mocked, derided;  
his saving cross no nation yet will bear:

*thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.*

Envious of heart, blind-eyed, with tongues confounded,  
nation by nation still goes unforgiven,  
in wrath and fear, by jealousies surrounded,  
building proud towers which shall not reach to heaven.

*thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.*

How shall we love thee, holy hidden Being,  
if we love not the world which thou hast made?  
Bind us in thine own love for better seeing  
thy Word made flesh, and in manger laid:

*thy kingdom come, O Lord, thy will be done.*

## Call to Worship

*Officiant:* Put your oil in your lamp! Keep it burning!

*People:* **We'll put oil in our lamps today!**

*Officiant:* Salvation's at the door! Greet its coming!

*People:* **Turn the wick up high and lead the way!**

## The Gloria

1982 Hymnal S 280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth,  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Psalm 63 *Verses sung by cantor; refrain sung by all*

Refrain: My soul is thirsting for you, O lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

**Refrain**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

**Refrain**

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall  
praise you.

**Refrain**

I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night watches I will meditate on you:  
You are my help and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying Eternal God, hear our prayer.

God of life, you created the world and called it good. In Jesus Christ you came to redeem us; his resurrection is our promise of eternal life. By the power of your Spirit you claim us, strengthen us, and prepare us to live with you in glory. In sure and certain hope, we pray for your world, that we may live into your coming reign of justice and peace.

For the church; wherever it thrives, and wherever it struggles, keep us faithful to our gospel. We remember especially Justin, the archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our presiding bishop; Alan and Carol our bishops; and John, our priest.

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern; grant them wisdom, and a commitment to justice. We remember especially the people of Israel and of Gaza, for the people of Ukraine, and all places which are experiencing violence.

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For planet Earth; heal its wounds, and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts.

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying; calm all fears, and welcome them into your peace.

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are faced with illness, grief, or other troubles that challenge the mind and spirit; especially Elin Babin, David Bell, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Don DiGiacomo, Robin Dix, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Phyllis Laidlaw, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Robert Long, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Lori M., Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Diane Walker, Nancy White, Walter, Baby Viviana, and Rachel.

*Silence during which time additional names are offered.*

Give them relief.

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who endure the days and nights without food and shelter-feed, protect them.  
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in silence - comfort each one who carries secret sorrows.  
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who seek your face.  
Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

With thanks that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we entrust all life to you, gracious God, our Alpha and Omega, our only hope in life and death: Through Jesus Christ we pray.  
**Amen.**

*Officiant:* Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Absolution*

May God almighty grant you forgiveness of all your sins. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord.

### **The Peace**

*Officiant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

## Invitation to the Offering

God is unfailing in blessing and love. With thankful hearts, let us offer up to God a portion of what God is given us.

## The Holy Communion

### Choral Anthem

### Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, your word to us is food indeed. Receive all we offer you this day, and let your loving-kindness be our comfort, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your living Word.

### Doxology

1982 Hymnal #380 vs. 3 only

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

Merciful God, receive all we offer you this day. Give us grace to love one another so that your love may be made perfect in us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
*Glory to you for ever and ever.*

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.  
*By your will they were created and have their being.*

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Minister and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Officiant* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
*We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### The Invitation to Holy Communion

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S 155 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Officiant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table, and everyone is welcome here.



## Distribution of Communion

### Post-communion Prayer

Living God, in the Eucharist you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, and bring us to the joy you promise. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Officiant* Let us pray together.

*People* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Blessing

May the Lord who made heaven and earth,  
The Christ who lived and died for all,  
And the Spirit who renews our mind and hearts  
Abide with you and all God's people, now and forever.  
Amen.

### Recessional Hymn

#598 ~ *Lord Christ, when first Thou cam'st to Earth*

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth, upon a cross they bound thee,  
and mocked thy saving kingship then by horns with which they crowned thee:  
and still our wrongs may weave thee now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
and robe of sorrow round thee.

O awe-ful love, which found no room in life where sin denied thee,  
and, doomed to death, must bring to doom the powers which crucified thee,  
till not a stone was left on stone, and all those nations' pride,  
o'er-thrown, went down to dust beside thee!

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse thee  
till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose thee?  
From old un-faith our souls release to seek the kingdom of thy peace,  
by which alone we choose thee.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us thy new creation;  
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, we wait thy revelation:  
O love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before thy cross,  
to finish thy salvation.

## Dismissal

*Officiant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Postlude

### Flowers given in loving remembrance of:

Deceased members & friends of the Bergeron/Ingram Families  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank P. Bennett, Jr., The Rev. & Mrs. Franklin P. Bennett, Olive Bennett,  
Members of the Gripper Family: Frederick E., Laura, L. Maude, Frederick T., and Michael,  
George & Kathleen Plummer, and Kathleen Plummer

### Announcement(s)

#### Counting

We will be counting on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> this month - please forward any memorial gifts, pledges, etc. beforehand. Thank you!

### Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge  
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director  
Denise Beneteau, Worship Leader & Stephen Belyea, Verger & L.E.M.

**St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906**

Tel: 781-233-1242 Email: StJohnsSaugus@Gmail.com