

St. John's Episcopal Church



The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19th, 2023 ~ 10am

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.
Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. *John 15:5*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn #291 ~ *We Plow the Fields, and Scatter*

We plow the fields and scatter, the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.*

He only is the Maker of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.

(Refrain)

We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food:
the gifts we have to offer are what thy love imparts,
but chiefly thou desirest our humble thankful hearts.

(Refrain)

Officiant: Trust in the Lord at all times, O peoples of the earth!

People: **We will pour out our hearts before our God!**

Officiant: God is your refuge and your strength, a very present help in trouble!

People: **We will trust, and not be afraid!**

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

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Psalm 125 *Verses sung by cantor; refrain sung by all*

Refrain: Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the Lord, Who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; Blessed shall you be, and favored

Refrain

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine; In the recesses of your home
Your children like olive plants around your table.

Refrain

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem All the days of your life

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

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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, God of grace, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you welcome us into your joy and entrust us with your gospel. In hope for the world to come and with love for the world you made, we offer our prayers for your church, your earth, and your people.

For your church, in this community and around the world, that your good news may be proclaimed to all. We pray particularly for the people of Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For oppressors, that they might know justice and those oppressed, that they might know peace.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For your creation, that we may be the caretakers you intend.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the young, that they might be nurtured in love.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the old, that they might be secure in your care.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For those who fight the demons of addiction, that they might find relief.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For those who face an early death and those they leave behind, that they might be comforted.
We remember especially Jocelyn Tacetta, that they might be comforted.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those who care for the suffering and those in their charge, that they would be freed from pain and fear, we remember 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.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all of those about whom we worry and those whose troubles are known only to you...
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For departed loved ones and friends; may they find peace in your heavenly kingdom, especially Richard & Isabelle Hull, Robert & Ruth Sketchley, Marilyn Tarr Schiappa, and George Gulliford.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All this we pray with gratitude for your eternal love and extravagant grace; in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

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.

Holy God, in this eucharist we renew our baptismal covenant. Help us, through our offering this day, to renounce all things that draw us from our love. This we ask 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

Gracious god, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished by holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood; for he is Lord forever and ever.

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 #390 ~ *Praise to the Lord*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again,
gladly forever adore him.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Announcements

Lenten Quiet Day

From Rev. John: You are welcome to join us for a Lenten quiet day on **Saturday, Dec. 16th** from 9am - 12pm, at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. Our retreat leader, Br. David Vryhof, SSJE, a brother and priest of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge, will lead a workshop on intimacy with God. He will pursue the question "How do we come to know and love God more intimately so that we may better serve God in the world?" If you would like attend, please contact the church office.

Yard Sale

Just a reminder to bring any donations you intend to offer for the downstairs yard sale by **Thursday, Nov. 30th**. It will be a great help to our volunteers in sorting and organizing items before the fair on Dec. 2nd. **Thank you!**

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Worship Leader & Julia Aston, L.E.M.

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