



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1st, 2024 ~ 10am

Prelude

Entrance Hymn

##7 ~ Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Opening Words

Who may abide in the presence of God?
Who may live on God's holy mountain?
All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.
All those who speak truth from their heart.

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm (Let us say it responsively)

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

- 1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.
- 2 **You are the fairest of men; ***
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you for ever.
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.
- 8 **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you ***
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
- 10 **Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; ***
on your right hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia (3x)**

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth
that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia (3x)**

The Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

In peace, let us pray to God, saying God of light, hear our prayer.

For the church of Jesus Christ,
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

Bless the church, O God. Deliver us from self-righteousness and make us holy in every way, that all people may see you in the witness of your faithful servants. For our pastors, teachers and ministers.

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

Bless the leaders of your church, O God; Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Alan and Carol, our Bishops, for Julia our Bishop-elect, and John our priest. Give them the wisdom to discern your truth, honor your commandments, and lead with humility. Let them walk blamelessly, do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart.

For the world, and for its leaders,

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

Bless the nations of the world, O God. Guide the leaders of governments for the sake of peace. Give them sound judgment, merciful hearts, and help them be accountable for the common good. Save them from the cynicism of war. Free them from the influence of greed. Deliver them from the temptations of social power.

For the communities in which we live,

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

Bless our communities, O God. Help us to live as friends with our neighbors and do good to one another, that homes may be free of fear and families live in peace.

Bless children and those who care for them, O God. Protect them from harm; give them what they need to grow in body and mind and provide caring adults to model for them a life of purpose and compassion.

For children,

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

For the sick and those in distress, particularly Elin Babin, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, Don DiGiacomo, Laura DiTrapano, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Anthony J., Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Lori, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry,

Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Dom Tello, Joanie Tello, Jill Vaccaro & Family, Viviana, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Walter, Lizzi, and Rachel.

Bless all who are ailing in body, mind, or spirit; heal them in their disease, and restore them to fullness of life.

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

We remember departed loved ones and friends, especially James & Doris Smith, and recently, Dennis Lancaster, praying you have received them all into your peaceful, heavenly kingdom.

For those who are still grieving loss,

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

Bless those who face the reproach of society, O God; those in prison, whether innocent or guilty of crimes, those who are ostracized due to mental disease, whether or not they pose a threat to others; those who are homeless, and those who are lost to addiction. Surround them with compassion and save them from hopelessness.

For those who are judged by others,

God of light, **hear our prayer.**

(brief silence)

These prayers we offer to you, God of light, through Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Invitation to Confession

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy to forgive.

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.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

Let us give as God has so abundantly given us.

Offertory Hymn #488 ~ *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
all else be nought to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
thou in my dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joy, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 that your love may be made perfect in us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Sanctus

#S130 ~ *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

**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 and Mothers: God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; and Jacob, Rachel and Leah; 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

Fraction Anthem

1982Hymnal #S155~*Christ, our Passover*

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

The Invitation to 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.

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

Distribution of Communion

Almighty God, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May your holy food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Officiant Let us pray.

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 God, the source of life, energize you with the Spirit, the power of life, and fill you with Christ, the bread of life, that you may receive eternal life.

Closing Hymn #512 ~ *Come, Gracious Spirit*

Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide
o'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.

Lead us to Christ, the living way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.

Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.

Dismissal

Postlude

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Sandy Mears, Worship Leader ~ Colleen Marcotte, L.E.M.

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