



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 29th, 2024 ~ 10am**

**Prelude**

**Entrance Hymn**

#282 ~ *Christ the Fair Glory* (verses 1-3 & 6)

Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels,  
maker of all things, ruler of all nations,  
grant of thy mercy unto to us  
thy servants steps up to heaven.

Send thine archangel Michael to our succor;  
peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us  
striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful  
all things may prosper.

Send thy archangel Gabriel, the mighty;  
herald of heaven, may he, from us mortals,  
drive every evil, watching o'er the temples  
where thou art worshiped.

Father Almighty, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
God ever blessed, hear our thankful praises;  
thine is the glory which from all  
creation ever ascendeth.

## Opening Words

*Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. (John 17:17)*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

[Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22](#)

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me~ that is my petition~ and the lives of my people~ that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Leader            The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm    (*Let us say it responsively*)

**Psalm 124**

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 **If the LORD had not been on our side, \***  
**when enemies rose up against us;**
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 **Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \***  
**and the torrent gone over us;**
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 **Blessed be the LORD! \***  
**he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 **Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \***  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

**Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

The Gospel  
Mark 9:38-50

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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 the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”)

For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Alan and Carol, our Bishops, and for Julia our Bishop elect. For Michael our presiding Bishop and Sean our Presiding Bishop elect, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this town of Saugus, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering (especially Elin Babin, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Conners, 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, Jessica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Anthony, 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, Carol Patroia, Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, 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), for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died, especially those known to us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering St. John, St. Luke, and all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

### Invitation to Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

**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

God has given us the sun and made us stewards of all creation. God has given us our lives and our very beings. Let us give to God, from what God has given us.

Offertory 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, accept all we offer you this day. May we who are reconciled at this table bring wholeness to our broken world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

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.**

Celebrant: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **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

1982 Hymnal #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. The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen

### Closing Hymn

#665 ~ *All my hope on God* (verses 1-3 & 5)

All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Mortal pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust;  
though with care and toil we build them, tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness e'er endureth, deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendor, light, and life attend him, beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore from his store newborn worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ, his son.  
Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

### Dismissal

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

**Participants in this Service:**

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge

Stephen Sikorski, Music Director

Sandy Mears, Worship Leader ~ Stephen Belyea, Verger &L.E.M.

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906

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