



St. John's Episcopal Church  
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Words of Welcome from T.J. Martin and Fr. John Beach

Opening 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.

Call to Worship

Upon this rock, Lord God, you have built your church, and the faith of the church is no  
the lips of Peter: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

Let the witness these words have inspired in the course of the centuries flourish with  
renewed vigor in the church of our time. Let the gates of hell give way before the power of  
this confession.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

### Collect of Purity

*Celebrant* 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.*

### Gloria

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.*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

### The Collect

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Old Testament

### Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.  
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.  
For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be for ever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

## The Response

### Psalm 138

#### *Confitebor tibi*

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; \*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**2 I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your Name, \***  
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name \*  
and your word above all things.

**4 When I called, you answered me; \***  
you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, \***  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; \*  
he perceives the haughty from afar.

**8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; \***  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.

9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; \*  
O LORD, your love endures for ever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

### **The Epistle**

#### **Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Gospel  
[Matthew 16:13-20](#)

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

### Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, with hope in the mercies of God, we confess our sins before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not ways of your kingdom.**

**We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly.**

**We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted.**

**We let conflicts prevail over grace, and divisions over harmony.**

**Have mercy upon us, we pray. Forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. When we call out to God, God answers. God saves us with a strong and outstretched hand. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and helped to live in grace. Amen

### Prayers of the People

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord.

Steadfast God, your love and faithfulness are with us always. We give thanks that with you there is no end to our hope. By your power, all exiles will come to an end; all things will be restored. Therefore, we pray with confidence to you who are above all things, knowing that you take notice of those who are bent low; that your strong arm takes hold of those who are in the midst of trouble.

To anyone in despair, send your deliverance swiftly.  
For those longing for home, return them, we pray, to a place of safety and love.

For anyone estranged from another, we pray that reconciliation may be accomplished or that an ending may become to pathway to a new beginning.

Loving God, you promise comfort to the one in sorrow and help to the one in trouble.

Lift us all up so that we can see your salvation.

*(silence)*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Help us and help the nations to learn your justice and to practice it.

Silence the deafening drumbeat of war so we may learn a song of thanksgiving. Before the world wears out like a garment, before we turn your Eden into a waste place, correct our habits. We desire to be better caretakers of the garden of the Lord.

*(silence)*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind, particularly those known to us.....

*(silence)*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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### The Peace

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

### **Anthem during the preparation of the Altar**

### The Holy Communion

#### The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*         **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*     Lift up your hearts.  
*People*         **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*     Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People*         **It is meet and right to do so.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant 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.**

*Celebrant*     Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent

Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, 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 stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

As disciples who seek to follow Jesus on the way to the kingdom, in humility of heart, let us pray

*People and Celebrant*

**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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
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 presider 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.

### Anthem during Communion

### Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

May God our Father bless you so that you can be a blessing to others.

May Christ bless you so that you can be healers of a world that is hurting.

May the Holy Spirit bless you so that you can spread the hope that only the triune God can inspire and give to this world.

## Dismissal

*Celebrant*      Touched, changed, called, and empowered, go now in the power and provision of Christ to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and serve the world.

*People*          **Thanks be to God.**

## Concluding Hymn              #537 ~ *Christ for the World We Sing*

Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
Christ we bring with loving zeal; the poor, and  
them that mourn, the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
Christ we bring with fervent prayer; the wayward  
and the lost, by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
Christ to bring with one accord; with us the  
work to share, with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to  
Christ we bring with joyful song; the newborn  
souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

### Weekly Prayer List

Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Armand Couture, Jr., Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Pat & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Eileen Fleury, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Hilary Lancaster, Kevin Lancaster Jr., Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Kevin McGinnis, Matt, Lori M., Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray (and deeply affected families), Bill St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb, Rachel W., and Candace Wormstead

### Announcement

#### Counting – Pledges

The counting team will be gathering at St. John's on **Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**. Kindly forward your pledges if you have not done so already. Thank you!

#### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

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