



**St. John's Episcopal Church
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8th, 2020**

Opening Words:

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Matthew 24.42, 44

Opening Hymn #1 ~ *Father, We Praise Thee*

Father, we praise thee, now the night is
over, active and watchful, stand we all before
thee; singing, we offer, prayer and meditation;
thus we adore Thee.

Monarch of all things, fit us for thy
mansions; banish our weakness, health and wholeness
sending; bring us to heaven, where thy saints
united joy without ending.

All holy Father, Son and equal
Spirit, Trinity blessed, send us thy salvation;
thine is the glory, gleaming and
resounding through all creation.

The Word of God

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.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Armand. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus 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.

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 First Reading

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

Psalm 70

Deus, in adiutorium

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; * O LORD, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not tarry.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself,

with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon **The Rev. John Beach**

The Prayers of the People

(Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Savior.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Alan, Gayle, and Bud, our bishops, and for all bishops and other ministers: that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our President, Donald, for the leaders of the nations, all who have recently been elected to public office, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way (particularly those known to us....) that they might be strengthened in the knowledge of God's Healing presence. And we also pray for our departed loved ones, especially Armand Couture, Jr., and James & Doris Smith.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them: that you will be their help and defense.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those recently baptized, particularly **Aubree Darlene Carchide**: that she may be strengthened in the faith.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints who have found favor in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses.

silence

Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant
People

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

Anthem during the preparation of the Altar

The Holy Communion

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	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.

The people stand or kneel.

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.

Celebrant As children of one Father and disciples of one Teacher, let us pray as our Master taught us:

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.

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

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.

Behold the living bread come down from heaven: Those who eat of it will never die.

Anthem during Communion

Prayer after Communion

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.

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and
 in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen

The Blessing

It is not enough that we love our God. For, if that love be *true*, we will also love our neighbors, not sparingly, but earnestly, joyfully, abundantly! Move gently among the people of God, ready to offer them not only the gospel, but your heart and soul and mind and strength. May God bless you and keep you.

Concluding Hymn #680 ~ *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1-4)*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Celebrant Sent to proclaim God's kingdom with power and to serve others with
humility, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Prayer List

Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Carolyn Chadsey, Jerry Dello Russo,
Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Pat & Tim Eldridge, Claire Errico,
Joanne Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins,
Michele Hoelzl, Janet Horrigan, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster,
Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Matt, Lori M., Harriet Miraglia, Gisela Moore, Jeanine
Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray (and deeply affected families), Debbie Rossetti, Bill St.
Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva,
Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb,
Rachel W., and Candace Wormstead

Announcements

Counting

Please note that we will be counting on **Sunday, November 22nd** – kindly forward gifts or pledges by mail, or feel free to leave them at the parish office during regular business hours.

Thank you!

ECDS - Community Outreach ~ November 1st - 29th 2020

As in years past, we are participating in the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. Donations of gift cards (pizza, X-box, Visa, Amazon, etc.) for teens and tweens are gratefully accepted. For those preferring to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer by phone or email 781*662*4342 or jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com.

Christmas Wreath & Poinsettia Sale ~ Saturday, December 5th: 10am - 1pm

Red Poinsettias (two sizes):

6 ½" pot containing 2 plants - \$15

or

7 ½" pot containing 3 plants - \$26

Wreath: 14" with bow - \$24

Order online: st-johns-church-saugus.square.site - order deadline is **Wednesday, November 25th**. Payment must accompany order; cash, check, and MC/Visa accepted.

Plants and wreaths are from Kane's Flower World, Danvers.

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The Rev. John Beach, Bridge Priest
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Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Julia Aston, Worship Leader

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