



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 25th, 2020

Opening Words

To love you, O Lord our God, with all our heart and soul and mind, we must love our neighbor as ourselves and take as our neighbors those you most love: the helpless, the stranger, and the poor.

Establish deep in our hearts your compassionate justice that the measure of our love may be like yours for us, boundless and unconditional.

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.

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.

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.*

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The Response

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, ***
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 **It is not so with the wicked; ***
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, ***
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.

For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Gospel

[Matthew 22:34-46](#)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’?”

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

The Prayers of the People

Having turned toward serving the true and living God, let us pray in the name of Jesus

We pray for the church in Saugus. May we demonstrate the love of God and of neighbor
for all persons who call this place home.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the governments of the world, that those who exercise leadership may seek God's wisdom and pursue those things which make for peace.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the children, the handicapped and all vulnerable members of our society that they might find compassion and cooperative care from all religions.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray that Christians who work in business and finance may find new ways to express the scriptural call to compassion.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray that individuals struggling to carry the burden of debt during these difficult days may find assistance and aid from those who mirror God's own compassion.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way (particularly...). In their frailty may they know God's strength, in their anxiety may they know God's peace, and in their fear, may they know God's love.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who mourn the loss of a spouse or other family member. May they be lifted up by the compassion of our community.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray those who have died, that those who have served the living and true God in this life, especially Harold & Iva Adlington, Robert Adlington, Winslow & Ida Adlington, Robert & Elsie Ashley, and Ralph K. Fairchild may now be welcomed by the Son whom God raised from the dead.

Lord in your mercy,

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.

Confession of Sin

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

Silence may be kept.

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.**

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

Anthem during the preparation of the Altar

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts Holy

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.

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

God of peace, you have nourished us in this sacrament with the body and blood of Christ. May we who have taken holy things keep faith in our hearts and lives, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Celebrant Glory to God,
People **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 #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.

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, Armand Couture, Jr.,
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, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster,
Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Matt, Lori M., 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

All Saint's Day Memorial List

Please forward names for remembrance next Sunday, November 1st, to the parish office. Thank you.

St. John's (online) Annual Fair

The fair is still online! Items are available to purchase on the jewelry, knit, and other tables. Or, you can also make a general donation; please visit the fair at st-johns-church-saugus.square.site to browse the site, and perhaps get some early Christmas shopping done. Thank you again for your support! ☺

The 'to-go' Roast Beef Dinner

Thank you x100 to Fritz White, Steve White, and all others who pitched in to make the dinner possible. While not able to appreciate the usual face-to-face camaraderie of this annual event, our parishioners, and the community, are deeply grateful for their efforts.

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Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Elizabeth Littlehale, Worship Leader

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