



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13th, 2020

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

Opening Prayer:

When you pass judgment, O God Most High, justice and mercy meet in perfect measure, and you pardon us as we pardon each other.

Create in us a new heart, from in the image of your Son, a heart strong enough to bear every word and gentle enough to forgive each offense, that the world may see how your people love one another, and remember how much you love all that you have made.

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.

Amen

Opening Hymn #691 ~ *My Faith Looks to Thee*

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cavalry,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's
tears way, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

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 of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph:

I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Response

[Psalm 103:\(1-7\), 8-13](#)

Benedic, anima mea

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 **Bless the LORD, O my soul, * and forget not all his benefits.**
- 3 He forgives all your sins *and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 **He redeems your life from the grave * and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;**
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, * and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 **The LORD executes righteousness * and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses * and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 **The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 **He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 **As far as the east is from the west, * so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, * so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

The Epistle

[Romans 14:1-12](#)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Gospel
Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Loving God: We pray for those who are sick or in trouble, especially those known to us..., Heal their disease, relieve their distress, and return them to the joy of salvation.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who suffer the violence of war or natural disaster, especially those who live in the midst of forest fires in the western region of our country. Bring an end to violence that destroys human flourishing; help us to live in peace with our neighbor and enable us to dwell in harmony with the earth.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for children, particularly those who are starting school in this strange and uncertain time, and for all who depend upon the support of others. Protect the vulnerable, shelter the weak, and give strength and wisdom to those who care for them.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for our President, Donald and for all elected officials and for civil servants. Stir up in them a desire for justice, enable them to fulfill their responsibilities with integrity, and drive from them any spirit of selfish gain.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for the clergy and people of the church, particularly our Bishops Alan, Gayle, and Bud, and for our priest, John, and for all those in positions of leadership. Grant them wisdom to know your truth and give them courage to live as faithful disciples of Jesus.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died especially those known to us, as well as the Departed Members of Saint John's Women's Guild.

silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, you have crowned us with steadfast love and mercy, Receive our prayers and help us to trust your goodness; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

As loving parents have compassion for their children, God has compassion for us. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sins.

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.**

Antem during the preparation of the Altar

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts 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.

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 Asking God to forgive our many sins, with love and forgiveness toward all, we now 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.

Celebrant: Behold the gifts prepared by the Teacher who ate with sinners: Draw near to the banquet of mercy, partake of the feast of forgiveness.

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

Prayer after Communion

God of peace, in this Eucharist we have been reconciled to you and to our neighbours. May we who have been nourished by holy things always have the courage to forgive. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Blessing

The blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and evermore.

Celebrant Eager to proclaim and share God's reconciling love, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Hymn

#494 ~ *Crown Him with Many Crowns (verses 1-3)*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; Hark!
how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began, and
ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, and
takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and
rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his
glories now we sing who died, and rose high, who
died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Weekly Prayer List

Residents and wildlife affected by wildfires in California and elsewhere, Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, 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, 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, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb, Rachel W., and Candace Wormstead

Announcement

Counting

This month we have planned to count on Sunday, September 27th - kindly forward any pledges or gifts to the parish office. Thank you again for your continued support!

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