



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 27<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Opening Words:

*Celebrant:* At the name of Jesus every knee should bend and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord.

*People:* **Glory to God. Amen**

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 of the Day

*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 Lessons

### **Old Testament**

[Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32](#)

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they

shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

### The Response

Psalm 25:1-8

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; \***  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, \***  
**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \***  
**remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 **He guides the humble in doing right \***  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

### The Epistle

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### The Gospel [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not

believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*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.")

Through God's steadfast compassion for us, God has filled us with concern for our world. Therefore we pray for what we need, saying, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

God you have placed a desire for truth and righteousness in the hearts of all people. Uplift those who seek and to live faithfully and lovingly by the promptings of your Spirit, even those who do not know your name; save them from despair, and lead them to the fullness of salvation. For seekers of truth,

*silence*

God of Compassion,

**Hear our Prayer.**

God, you call the children of Israel to make known your righteousness, and you call disciples of Jesus to take the good news of your salvation to all nations. Help those who know your name to be faithful to their calling, to live according to your commandments, and to testify to your abounding love. For all who believe in you,

*silence*

God of Compassion,

**Hear our Prayer.**

God you have formed your people into communities of prayer and service. Strengthen the leaders of your church, especially for Alan, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops, John our priest, and for the Diocesan staff who serve the common good. Give them humble and obedient hearts after the example of Christ, who humbled himself in obedience to you. For ministers of the gospel,

*silence*

God of Compassion,

**Hear our Prayer.**

God, you have placed in human hearts a hunger to understand the structures and rhythms of creation. Grant to those who seek to comprehend the inner workings of the world, save them from arrogance, and enable them to work for the flourishing of humankind. For scientists,

*silence*

God of Compassion,

**Hear our Prayer.**

God you established the nations of the world to order human community. Kindle love for peace among the nations and their leaders, save them from pride of wealth or power, and enable them to serve the common good. For those who govern,

*silence*

God of Compassion,

**Hear our Prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress. Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit (especially...). Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them. Teach us to bear the burdens of our sisters and brothers with humility. For the sick and those in distress, and for those who have departed, especially Alma and Fred Hagman.

*silence*

God of Compassion,  
**Hear our Prayer.**

These prayers we offer through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Confession of Sin**

The Lord spoke through Ezekiel, saying, cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Therefore let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*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*  
*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 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* Called to labor in the vineyard for the coming of God's kingdom, let us pray as Jesus 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 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.

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

### **Anthem during Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Father in heaven, strengthen the unity of your Church, so that we who have been fed with holy things may fulfil your will in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Blessing**

*Life is short,  
And we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who  
make the journey with us.  
So be swift to love,*

*and make haste to be kind.  
And the blessing of God,  
who made us, who loves us,  
and who travels with us  
be with you now and forever.  
AMEN*

*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** #542 ~ *Christ is the World's True Light*

Christ is the world's true light, its captain of salvation,  
the Day-star clear and bright desire of every nation;  
new life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is throned as Lord, all shall forsake their fear,  
to ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;  
cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee;  
the world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

**Weekly Prayer List**

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 Muisse, 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

## **St. John's (virtual) Annual Fair and (social distance) Roast Beef Dinner**

Please visit [st-johns-church-saugus.square.site](http://st-johns-church-saugus.square.site) if you wish to contribute to St. John's online fair tables or would like to participate in our October 24<sup>th</sup> Roast Beef Dinner. We will also offer a vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan option. Dinners include thin-sliced top of round beef w/ mushroom demi-glace or eggplant parmesan, w/ twice-baked potato, green-bean almandine, salad, dinner roll, butter, and apple crisp.

'To-go' dinners will be ready for pick-up on **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm**, with social-distancing protocols in place. If you prefer to donate to the fair by check/cash or purchase a dinner in advance and/or in-person, kindly contact the office during regular business hours.

**As always, we are blessed by your continued support, as well as the commitment of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you!**

St. John's Episcopal Church  
The Rev. John Beach, Bridge Priest  
([johnbeach\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:johnbeach(at)comcast.net) or 774\*961\*9881)

Music Director: Stephen Sikorski  
Worship Readings: Julia Aston

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906  
Office: 781-233-1242    Email: [StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com](mailto:StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @StJohnsSaugus    Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus  
Website: [www.StJohnsSaugus.org](http://www.StJohnsSaugus.org)