



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD – RITE II

Sunday, 12 July 2020 + 10:30 AM

Pensacola, Florida + Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Prelude: Prelude in E Minor

– J.S. Bach

Announcements and Welcome

(The People stand)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

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.***

Song of Praise

O For A Closer Walk with God – C.V. Stanford

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson *(The People are seated.)*

Reader A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Silence may be kept.

The Psalm – Psalm 119:105-112 *BCP 772*

***105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.***

***106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.***

***107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.***

***108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.***

***109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.***

***110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.***

***111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.***

***112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.***

The Second Lesson

Reader A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the

Romans.

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept.

Hymn 423 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

The Gospel (*The People stand.*)

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word

and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Hoffman

Silence may be kept.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

Prayers of the People: Form VI

BCP 392

Priest: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
(*The People kneel*)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors,
and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth your true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence

We pray this day for all those suffering from the coronavirus, or any other illness; for those who worry about their families and friends, and about their jobs and livelihoods; and for all those at the forefront of our health care and public safety systems.

We pray for the sick and hospitalized in our parish and community.

We pray for all those on our hearts and minds this day, those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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 Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Peace

BCP 360

All Stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Announcements

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 360

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

The Postlude: Invention

– J. Callaerts

If you are in a position to continue giving to Christ Church, please consider the following options:

- ❖ *Mail in your offering to Christ Church:
18 W Wright St, Pensacola, FL 32501.*
- ❖ *Give Online, see our website or visit:
<https://my.e360giving.com/App/Giving/chri18w216>.*
- ❖ *Text GIVE to (850) 403-6673. There will be a one-time quick registration. Once the registration is complete, future giving only requires you to text "GIVE" with the amount to (850) 403-6673.*

Thank you for giving to Christ Church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect on the Gospel passage. Some guided reflection questions are provided here:

In the familiar parable of the sower, we frequently try to discern how we receive the Word of God and how we respond to it. Are we like those who have no depth of understanding, or like those whose faith gets choked out by the cares of the world, or are we the receptive ones?

Consider another aspect of this story. Consider the extravagance of the sower; one who sows God's grace without regard to where it will land. An extravagant God who showers his grace on all, regardless of how they receive it.

Do you see that no matter whether you might be "fertile soil," or consider yourself worthy of receiving God's grace, God sows it on you with abandon anyway? Why do you suppose God does that?

PRAYERS FOR PERSONAL DEVOTION

Prayer for Unity in Time of Pandemic:

Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness": We pray to you for all who are sick with the coronavirus, for those who have died, and for all who fear what lies ahead. As we stay apart to protect our bodies, let us come together in spirit to heal our souls, that your love for us may be manifest in our love and support for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Gracious God, creator of all and giver of all that is good: I give you thanks for this day and every day, for your presence in my life, for my friends and neighbors gathered here this day, for your Church, and for our worship together in thanksgiving and praise to you. I pray that you will continue to lead me closer to you and help me to more perfectly love you and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for Justice:

O God, you have bound us together in a common life; Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move us, in the midst of our struggles for justice, equality and truth, to break down the barriers which divide us, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together for the common good, in a spirit of love, mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



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The Rev. John Walter Phillips, II,
The Rev. Jandy H. Watkins, *Assisting Clergy*
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