

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ESSEX
9:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 25, 2020

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude: *Prelude Modal*

Jean Langlais

Jeremiah Mead, organist

Procession with organ improvisation: *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling-place*

Due to COVID-19 we are not singing as we would normally do at this time and rather have the gift of the organ during the procession.

Opening Acclamation & Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

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

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

The Celebrant continues

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.

Then is sung the following hymn of praise.

Song of Praise

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

The Celebrant says to the people

 The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

The following prayer may be added.

Parish Transition Prayer

Almighty God, you know the challenges we have faced this year. We know you have great plans for us and that you know the church's needs everywhere. Grant the members of our Vestry the guidance of your Holy Spirit as they choose a new rector on our behalf. Help these trusted leaders make sound decisions. Give them discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Many things await us once we make this important choice. We are thankful that you are always with us through these unsettling times. Give us the courage to be the people God intended us to be. Let our confidence not rest in our own understanding but in your guiding hand. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Written by all members of the St. John's Prayer Team. Some inspiration from *St. Augustine's Prayer Book* by Forward Movement.

The First Lesson: 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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

BCP 585

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

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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 Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

At the Gospel Procession there will be a short organ improvisation.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Linda Spiers

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 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.

The Prayers of the People

Form VI, BCP p. 392

The Leader and People pray responsively

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.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Ian and Laura, our Bishops; and
for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

We pray especially for those who have commended themselves to our prayers:
Ginny Buracchi, Matheus Burke, Helen and Bill Chatman, Maureen Cole,
Sandra and Tony Custodio, Ray and Joan Daly, Roger Deakin, Darlene Ferris,
Eliot Field, Dustin Fitzpatrick, Brad Guarino, Maryann Hanick, Donald
Hibbard, Deborah Knight, Dan Kucharski, Rich Lammlin, Sarah Lively, John
Pfarr, Hannah Roemhild, Pam Ryan, John Schumacher, Dan Taylor-Stypa,
Elizabeth Traester, Sean & Jessica Wheeldon, Ginny Willetts, and all on our
Home Prayer list.

We pray for all who have been sickened and affected in any way by COVID-19,
for the First Family, for all on the White House staff, for elected and
nominated government officials, and for peoples throughout our nation and
world.

We also pray for the safety of those from our parish who serve in the Armed
Forces, especially Douglas Hamilton, Carl Heise, Molly Jane Fresher, Jon
Hilzinger, Andy Morgado, Andrew Roemhild, Spencer Russo, and Brian
Tewart.

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

We give thanks for the work of our global ministry partners in Mozambique
and the Diocese of Lebombo, especially Bishop Carlos, Father David and the
congregation of St. Bernard's, and Jose, our Seminarian. We also pray for the
work of Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti.

And we also give thanks the ongoing work of our local ministry partners: the Shoreline Soup Kitchen; Middlesex Habitat for Humanity; the Old Lyme VFW; and Sister Cities Essex Haiti. We give thanks for the ministries of A Sacred Place, Camp Washington, and Incarnation Center.

We give you thanks for creating the diversity of humankind, including our sisters and brothers of color and all races and all cultures and all nations; and we give you thanks for calling us to be reconciled to one another. Your love is the source of our healing, and you transform us from death to life. Continue to give us new hearts and make us instruments of hope as we walk these days of COVID-19, economic distress, and racial inequity.

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. We especially remember today brother Oscar Buracchi, who was buried from St. John's yesterday and in whose memory today's Altar flowers are given. We remember Boone Miller and carry his family in our prayers. We also remember Walter Lloyd and Lewis and Frances Traester, in whose loving memory the Altar flowers last week were given by Robert and Anne Lloyd.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

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 Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, and the Holy Table is prepared.

Organ Improvisation at the Offertory: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Jeremiah Mead, organist

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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 Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Then is said

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Because of the physical separation we are experiencing, the following prayer of Spiritual Communion adapted from diocesan priest Bennet Brockman is prayed by Celebrant and People.

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

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*All then join in saying the following prayer.**

God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**used at the urging of our Presiding Bishop, and composed jointly by Episcopalians and Lutherans calling us both to renewal in the midst of the pandemic and also honoring the nearly two decades of full communion between The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

The Celebrant then blesses the people.

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses them with these or similar words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Procession with Organ Improvisation: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

Due to COVID-19 we are not singing as we would normally do at this time

and rather have the gift of the organ during the procession.

The people remain standing as the Altar party processes out.

Serving today: Jeremiah Meade, Organist; Keith and Ken Krzeminski, Greeters and Checkers; Rob van der Horst, Usher; Karen van der Horst, Usher and Lector; Michael Crosbie, Lector; The Rev. Linda Spiers, Preacher and Celebrant; The Rev. Geoffrey T. Smith, Deacon.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Clergy and Staff: The Rev. Linda Spiers, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*; The Rev. Geoffrey T. Smith, *Deacon*; The Rev. Carolyn J. Sharp, *Priest Affiliate*; Chelsea DiDonato, *Parish Administrator & Communications Director*; Darlene James, *Music Director*; Becky Honan, *Christian Education Director*; Richard Lammlin, *Verger*; Craig Larson, *Sexton*; Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

Vestry: Brian Fresher, *Warden*; Karen Kaestle, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Howard Tuttle, *Treasurer*; Mary Bowers, Skip Fiorelli, Lee Gaby, Darrell Jones, Gregory Perruccio, Kathy Randall, Paulette Rider, Maggie Walden, Kirsten Wendell

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