

***Prior to the start of the service,
we invite silence, prayer and preparation.***

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near. This week we pray for:

Botswana, Zimbabwe; The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); Iglesia Betania, Stamford; St. Paul's, Norwalk; Christ Episcopal, Norwich; Students of all ages who are graduating.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and heal those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs. Grant that they may be strengthened and have confidence in your loving care. This week we pray for:

Sabin Streeter, Keath, Kristi, Blair, Eleanor Robinson, Woody Anderson, Ashley, Burt Devine, Marcy, Todd Lefurge, Watson Bastos, Whitney, Charlotte Shales-Clarke, Claudia Reynolds, Chase, Ted Schell, Maggie, Suzy, Huntley, Helena, Ray Padegenis, Ben, Tony Piccirillo, Claire Olgren, Irma Duval, Dan Ivey, Art Sibley, Veronica Mederious & Family, Mike Dowley, Matthew, John Daniels, Trent Meekoff

Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church.

... our parish families:

Monday: Rebecca Jones

Tuesday: Jane Keydel

Wednesday: Carolyn Kilroy

Thursday: Jean & John King

Friday: Kathy Kronholm

... those having birthdays this week:

Sunday: June Willson

Monday:

Tuesday: Carmen Oulahan

Wednesday: Lee Howard

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

We pray for those who have died:

All victims of COVID-19;

All victims of violence

Prelude

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn: The Church's One Foundation ~ *Aurelia*

Hymnal 525

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long-ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Welcome

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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Collect for Purity

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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.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from Ezekiel

17:22-24

22 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. 24 All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 20



- 1 May the LORD answer you in the¹ day of¹ trouble, *
the Name of the¹ God of¹ Jacob de¹fend you;
- 2 Send you help from his¹ holy¹ place *
and¹ strengthen you¹ out of¹ Zion;
- 3 Remember¹ all your¹ offerings *
and ac¹cept your¹ b^urt¹ sacrifice;
- 4 Grant you your¹ heart's de¹sire *
and¹ prosper¹ all your¹ plans.
- 5 We will shout for joy at your victory
and triumph in the¹ Name of our¹ God; *
may the LORD grant¹ all¹ your re¹quests.
- 6 Now I know that the LORD gives victory to¹ his a¹nointed: *
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,
with the victorious¹ strength of¹ his right¹ hand.
- 7 Some put their trust in chariots and¹ some in¹ horses, *
but we will call upon the¹ Name of the¹ LORD our¹ God.
- 8 They collapse and¹ fall¹ down, *
but we will a¹rise and¹ st^änd¹ upright.
- 9 O LORD, give¹ victory to¹ the¹ king *
and¹ answer us¹ when we¹ call.

6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. 12 We are not commanding ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,[b] we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: King of glory, King of peace ~ *General Seminary*

Hymnal 382

1 King of glo - ry, King of peace, I will love thee;
 2 Where - fore with my ut - most art, I will sing thee;
 3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;

Tenor or soprano ad libitum

3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;

and that love may nev - er cease, I will move thee.
 and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.
 in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
 in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.

Thou hast grant - ed my re - quest, thou hast heard me;
 Though my sins a - gainst me cried, thou didst clear me;
 Small it is in this poor sort to en - roll thee;

Small it is in this poor sort to en - roll thee;

thou didst note my work - ing breast, thou hast spared me.
 and a - lone, when they re - plied, thou didst hear me.
 e'en e - ter - ni - ty's too short to ex - tol thee.
 e'en e - ter - ni - ty's too short to ex - tol thee.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

3:26-34

26 He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” 30 He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” 33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anita Louise Schell

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.

Prayers of the People

In the presence of our creative God who calls us to a growth that will transform and support us, let us come together and present our needs, saying: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That all people of every race may find a dwelling place of welcome and nourishment with us, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as the mustard seed, the smallest of all earth's seeds, grows into the largest of shrubs, so may God's reign grow in us, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as we plant the seeds of the kingdom, we may sow generously, from a full heart, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as seeds require time to grow, we may continue to water and nourish God's word, confident that in time it will take root, growing strong as an elm, giving life and shelter to others, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That the homeless may find a dwelling place of acceptance and care within the church, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

The congregation is invited to add their own prayers and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.