

Welcome to our Sunday Worship
September 26, 2021 9:00 A.M. Rite II
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

With utmost concern for all in our diocese,
***Bishop Smith has decided that masks once again should be worn
by all individuals for all indoor gatherings.***
Masks are available in the Narthex or ask the Ushers for one. Thank you.

PRELUDE *Offertorium* Hauptmann

(Please remain seated as we sing)

Surely the Presence

Worship #131

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

(Please stand)

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

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**

THE GLORIA

Hymnal #S 280

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray: 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.**

(Please be seated)

The First Reading: *(Lector)* A Reading from the Book of Esther.

The Book of Esther tells the heroic story of a Jewish woman married to the king of Persia, Xerxes (in the Bible, Ahasuerus), who saved her people in the 5th century BCE. It is a well-told tale still read in its entirety in synagogues on the Jewish Feast of Purim, which is said to have originated in this event.

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor. [7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22]

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 124

Yet another of the so-called "Songs of Ascent" believed to have been sung by pilgrims approaching Jerusalem. Psalm 124 thanks God for deliverance from the assaults of some unknown enemy, possibly during a period of political instability and civil strife or perhaps during the journey to Jerusalem.

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

**If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;**

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

**Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;**

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

**Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Second Reading: (*Lector*) A reading from the Letter of James.

In an age when scientific medicine was still very primitive, healing the sick had spiritual as well as physical significance, as it still has for many. Anointing the sick with oil and prayer were a powerful treatment. Repentance, confession and seeking forgiveness were also a very important part of the healing process.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

[5:13-20]

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

Worship # 384 vs 1, 2

Rock of ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save and thou alone.

THE GOSPEL (*Please stand*)

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The issue in this passage still troubles many: Who really is a follower of Jesus? In response to this dilemma posed by John, the son of Zebedee, Jesus appears to broaden the scope of discipleship: "Whoever is not against us is for us." At the same time, there is a severity in Jesus' words spoken in crisp metaphors.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

[9:38-50]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gradual:

Worship # 384 v 3

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die!

SERMON (*Please be seated*)

NICENE CREED (*Please stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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 IV (*Please stand or kneel*)

The Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Remember the Anglican Communion, especially the Diocese of the Episcopal Church, and our Diocese. Remember Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our presiding Bishop, Dabney our Bishop, Tom our Rector, our clergy, vestry, staff and people, and bless our ministries.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Remember Joe our President, Ron our Governor, our county commissioners and those who advise them. Remember our soldiers who are in harm's way.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those having birthdays this week, especially: Anthony Cilluffo, Rosemary LaRose, and John Mulcahy, and all those celebrating anniversaries: especially Bob & Carol McKenna, and Bruce & Christine MacGregor.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray especially for the family of Gail Snowman Bones, _____ and all those on our parish prayer list. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy Gail Snowman Bones, _____ and all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (*Please stand*)

OFFERTORY (*Please be seated during hymn*)

Worship # 504 vs 1, 2

Just a closer walk with thee

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close with thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none by thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close with thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Doxology *(Please stand)*

Hymnal #380 v 3

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant: 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...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.

SANCTUS

Hymnal # S 130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(The people kneel or stand as the Celebrant continues)

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.

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.

GREAT AMEN *Amen, Amen, Amen*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray.

Celebrant & People sing: *The Lord's Prayer*

Worship #740

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant & People sing:

Fraction Anthem *Eat This Bread*

Worship #697 (ref x 2)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish a blessing instead, please fold your hands across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

Instrumental

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand or kneel)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Celebrant: And finally my brothers and sisters, live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shall be with you this day and all the days of your life.

CLOSING HYMN *(Please stand)*

Worship # 509 vs. 1, 2, 4

Onward, Christian soldiers

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before:
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; forward into battle, see his banners go.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God; Christians, we are treading where the saints
have trod;

we are not divided, all one body we, one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Onward, then, you people, join our happy throng, blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
glory, laud, and honor until Christ the King: this thro' countless ages with the angels sing.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St. Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Celebrant issues the DISMISSAL

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *March from "3rd Organ Symphony"*

C. M. Widor

Welcome visitors! We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall, after the service.

Today's 9:00 a.m. Worship Leaders: *Celebrant & Homilist:* The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, *Eucharistic Ministers:* Linda Connelly, *Lector & Intercessor:* Judy Cimaglia, *Music Director / Organist:* Eleanor Phelps, *Ushers:* Judy Martin & Richard Breithaupt, *Greeter:* Katie Judnich

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Active Altar Guild Members: Judy Allen- Lee Barron
Nora Broszeit – Carol O'Connell - Nancy Smith - Mia Tajawandee - Carol Tracy - Cindy Tysiak
Honorary Altar Guild Members: Linda Condon - Melene & Ray Davila
Jean Hayes – Joan Menslage- Tootie Steineger – Bev Sweet

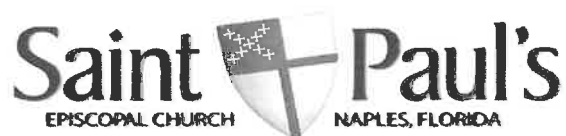
Other St. Paul's Sunday Worship Services
5 pm Worship in Creole

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, Rector
The Rev. Panel Guerrier, Assisting Priest for Creole Worship
Deb Avery, Parish Administrative Assistant
Virgil Manuel, Comptroller
Eleanor J. Phelps, Music Director

St. Paul's Vestry Members

Senior Warden-Rich Shea, Junior Warden- Joyce Cashin, Treasurer-David Abernethy, Judy Allen, Don Anderson, Richard Breithaupt, Nora Broszeit, Dick Emerson, Van Geoghegan



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