

The Liturgy of the Word
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020
Grace Episcopal Church

Opening

Officiant Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. *Theresa of Avila*

Prelude

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be the one, Holy and Living God.

People **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

A Song of the Wilderness

EOW 27

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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

Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Reader Let us read together Psalm 23.

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

All things bright and beautiful

Hymnal 405

The Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. David Burman

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.

Anthem

I Sat Down under His Shadow

Bairstow

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor:

Holy God, Creator of both heaven and earth, you have spread your abundance throughout the ends of the earth. We lift our prayers to you, O God.

You are the hope of all creation.

We pray for Donald, our president, the leaders of the nations, and all who make decisions as the peoples of the earth clamor for resources. Inspire us to do justice, preparing the way for your glorious reign. We lift our prayers to you, O God;

You are the hope of all creation.

Send your Spirit to disturb and challenge us, that we may wisely share the fruits of the earth, and pattern our common life in ways that honor your creation and promote sustainable communities and ecosystems. We lift our prayers to you, O God;

You are the hope of all creation.

Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is being killed, and give us the will to protect species in danger of extinction. May we embrace your charge to watch over and care for all the creatures of the earth. We lift our prayers to you, O God;

You are the hope of all creation.

For all who live in poverty, sickness, loneliness and grief, that you will wipe the tears from their faces. We pray especially for Wanda, Emma, Andrea, Steve, Jim, Celeste, Judy, Bethann, Will, Breezie, Julie, Dwight, Angela, James and Barbara, Trevor, Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Chuck and Jason and their children, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Peggy, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Cooper, Sally, Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Bren who is deployed as a nurse in the pandemic.

We pray for Angela, who is with child.

We pray for all whose homes are in peril or uprooted because of climate change, for all displaced because of hurricanes, fires or other disasters.

We pray for all who remain on the front lines of this pandemic: for health care providers, those who grow and process food, staff grocery stores, provide transit, transport supplies, care for the young and the aged and those who are sick. We pray for all suffering from illness, those who have died, and all who grieve as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We lift our prayers to you, O God;

You are the hope of all creation.

We remember before you those who are dying and those who have died, especially Judy, sister of Jerry. Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love, which does not know despair but sows seeds of hope. We lift our prayers to you, O God;

You are the hope of all creation.

Officiant Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out life with such abundance that death cannot claim the triumph over your universe. Call us again to your banquet where we may receive your holy food, and, strengthened by what is honorable, just, and pure, be transformed into a people of righteousness and peace. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

**We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation:
teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.**

We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection. Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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.**

The Blessing

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. David Burman
Lectors	Elisabeth Schrock, Linda Sue Longfield
Intercessors	Tessa and Brett Spaulding
Violinist	Brian Cook
Organist	Patrick Rice
Director of Music	David Long
Singers	Steven Hinkle, David Long, Elisabeth Schrock, Janelle Wagoner, Trevor Wagoner
Video	Richard Lanham, Janelle Wagoner

Announcements

Join Us for Online Worship at 9am & 10:45am Sundays

During this time of Social Distancing, we will continue to stream videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am and again at 10:45am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes weekend issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am or 10:45am video streams, you can always go back and watch later.

Outdoor In-Person Worship Begins next Sunday, October 18th at 4:30pm

We had hoped that we would be able to begin socially-distanced outdoor worship this Sunday, but the weather has not cooperated. Weather permitting, Grace will begin holding outdoor worship on Sunday, October 18th at 4:30pm. We will meet on the empty lot that was formerly the home of the Shiny Penny for a simple service of Holy Communion. In an effort to protect the health of our neighbors, participants must sign up in advance (look for the sign-up sheet, which will be sent out via Gracenotes and posted on the Grace group Facebook page on Monday), and we will be limited the attendance for this first service to 30 households. Each household unit is asked to keep 12-15 feet distance from your closest neighbor on the lawn. Please wear a mask, and bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Bug spray is highly recommended!

Clergy Outdoor Office Hours

This week, the Rev David Burman will be in the courtyard from 1:00pm to 4:00pm today, Sunday, October 11th. The Rev. April Berends will hold office hours on Tuesday, October 14th from 9am-noon. Wear a mask, and stop by for conversation or a prayer. Thanks to all who have visited so far; the priests of Grace have enjoyed catching up with you. As always, you may email either of the priests (aberends@saygrace.net or dburman@saygrace.net) to set up a time for a socially-distanced conversation if you'd prefer to meet outside of office hours.

Sacred Ground Dialogues around Racial Healing

The Sacred Ground dialogue circle on racial healing meets Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Sacred Ground focuses on issues of race and racism and the difficult, transformative conversations that we need to have around these issues. Sacred Ground sessions invite participants to understand the racial history of this country and the church in order to faithfully respond to the challenges around race that surround us today. Unfortunately, this group has reached capacity. Stay tuned for additional offering on racial justice and other topics.

Morning Prayer and Compline

All are invited to escape from the madness and rest your mind and soul via Morning Prayer on weekdays and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., and services of Compline at 8:00 p.m. each evening. We all need reminders of essential realities that transcend the medical and political context in which we find ourselves.

Here are the links for Daily Morning Prayer and Compline:

[Weekday Morning Prayer](#)

[Weekday Compline](#)

Community Care in Anxious Times

Grace check-in team leaders are continuing to contact parishioners via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.