

The Liturgy of the Word
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 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 Sonata 4, *Andante religioso* Felix Mendelssohn

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 Hosea*

Come, let us return to our God, *
who has torn us and will heal us.
God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, *
after two days revive us,
On the third day restore us, *
that in God's presence we may live.
Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, *
whose justice dawns like morning light,
its dawning as sure as the sunrise.
God's justice will come to us like a shower, *
like spring rains that water the earth.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal,

that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-12

Reader A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Hymnal 423

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?"

They answered, “Yes.”

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Reader	The word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. April Berends

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.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us offer our prayers for the church and the world, saying,
Living God, pour your Spirit upon us.

People We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; April and David, our priests,
Keith, our seminarian; and for all who confess your name throughout the world. Inspire our
witness to your Holy Gospel, that we may make your love known. Living God,
Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We pray for this fragile earth, our island home. Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation
and help us to care for the world you have entrusted to us. Living God,
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and marketplaces; for our
neighborhoods and workplaces, for protesters and for police. Help us to honor your image in one
another. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at
home. Living God,
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for courage, strength, and grace in our daily lives. May the work of our hands, the
words of our mouths, and the prayers of our hearts bring glory to you and hope to your people.

People Living God,
Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We pray for peace among the peoples of the earth. Guide the leaders of the nations, and bring those divided by prejudice and hatred to the peace that the world does not yet know. Living God
People Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We pray for those who suffer, for those who are sick, lonely or imprisoned. Surround them with your healing presence, and help us to minister to them with wisdom and compassion. We pray especially for:

Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Andy, Chuck and Jason and their children, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Kathleen and Caroline, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, David, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Major, Peggy, Jean, 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 Kerry and Janine, who are with child.

We pray for the people of St. Thomas Church, Knoxville, as they discern next steps after the closure of the church this fall.

We pray for all who are treating the sick, staffing health care facilities, stocking shelves, transporting supplies, providing transit, suffering from illness, grieving those who have died, and adjusting to new ways of living in the midst of the current pandemic. Living God,

People Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We commend to your mercy those who are dying and those who have died, especially Charlotte Lott, mother of Jeff Bertrand and grandmother of Helen and Eleanor, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in the full revelation of your eternal glory. Living God,

People Pour your Spirit upon us.

Officiant O sovereign God, in Jesus Christ you set your holy reign upon this earth and within your people. So let its coming be like the mustard seed that grows into greatness, and like the leaven that mixes with the grain until the whole becomes greater, to the praise of the triune God, who lives forevermore. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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.

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

La Morisque

Tielman Susato

Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. April Berends
Lectors	Kristina Shanyfelt, Amie Brien-Slack
Intercessor	Maria Hurt
Organist	Patrick Rice
Singers	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.

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](#)

Antiracism Resources

You'll find a growing list of anti-racism resources at bit.ly//ANTIRACISMRESOURCES.

Christian Formation Opportunities

Study on Antiracism continues, Sundays at 10am

This morning we continue a community-wide conversation on antiracism. The primary text for this discussion group is *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Brown's memoir of growing up Black, Christian and female in majority-White schools and churches describes her experience of finding her way amidst the racial divide in this country. Brown offers insightful and personal analysis of White Christianity and the church's attempts at seeking racial justice. This week, we'll be covering chapters four and five. Here's the Zoom link for the Sunday class at 10am: [Sunday Morning Christian Formation](#)

A limited number of copies of *I'm Still Here* are available through the Grace Bookstore. Contact Dabney Carden at dcarden@saygrace.net to reserve a copy. For more information, contact David Burman (dburman@saygrace.net) or April Berends (aberends@saygrace.net).

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.