



Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2020
8:00 a.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
123 W. Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450
www.graceepiscopalexington.org

Celebrant
The Rev. Tucker Bowerfind, Rector

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Lexington Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

November 8, 2020

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome to everyone joining us on Facebook Live and Zoom!

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pg. 323

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

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Glory be to God on high,

and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,

we worship thee,

we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;

thou only art the Lord;

thou only, O Christ,

with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day (Proper 27)

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Lessons

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to

serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Psalms 78:1-7

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Sermon

Fr. Tuck

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

Please pray for the wider Church and intercessions requested by our Congregants:

Pray for The Anglican Communion, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines, the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Justin Badi Arama, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and our Bishop Mark Bourlakas. Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to Trinity, Arrington.

Pray for the people of Trinity, Arrington.

Pray for Bettie Cadden, Lynda DeMaria, Bob DeMaria, Pam Holsten, Jordan (friend of David Cox), Lynne Johnson, Melissa Hays-Smith, Susan Williams, Ned Glenn (Brother of Elizabeth Harralson), Olivia Patton, Liz Moss, Jeanne Eichelberger, Rachel Pattison, Ely Turner (friend of Rob Minor), Peter Fyfe, Jack Hersbell, The. Rev. Butch Eanes (friend of Carol and Lynn Dent), Pat Gibson, Eloise Adams, Punky Dod, Jenni Dod (niece of Punky Dod)

Pray for those serving in the military, especially Michael Bryant.

Pray for those who have died.

Pray for those affected by unsafe living conditions, poverty, disease, especially Covid-19, violence and oppression.

In thanksgiving, and with grateful hearts, for all veterans.

In thanksgiving for the birthdays for this week and next of Evan Atkins (11/8), Grace Simcoe (11/8), Doug Ayer (11/13), Julie Grover (11/13), Jim Farrar (11/13), Tim Price (11/15), René Glidden (11/15), Amy Holston (11/15), France Harcus (11/18), Steven Lawrence (11/19), Hank Humphreys (11/19), Tim Gaylard (11/21), Ryan Holston (11/21), Liam Murphy (11/21).

Celebrant: We offer our prayers in the presence of Wisdom, who makes herself known to all who seek her gifts, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Reader: In thanksgiving for our church school teachers, who awaken in their students the mystery of faith: Yahweh's great acts of deliverance, Christ's victory of life over death, and the eternal light that breaks through every darkness; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us ever watchful for your face shining through the faces of the poor and downtrodden, the wait staff and the salesperson, the toll collector and the crossing guard, lest that in missing them we may not see you; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Place your wisdom in the heart and mind of our President and Governor, that the decisions they make this year may bring righteousness and justice to all peoples everywhere; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Inspire us with a sense of urgency, that we may relate to others the joy of a Christ-centered life, welcoming others into our fold, and showing increase in the household of faith; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who have served in the armed forces, defending our country in times of war, and ensuring peace where there is instability; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for those who have died, especially during military service, may they and all the faithful departed live with the Lord forever; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant & People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and

wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. Those not receiving communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply signify by crossing your arms over your chest.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Readers

Gail Dickerson, Eli Bradley, Diana Kenney

Ushers

Holt Merchant, Paul Robblee, Joanne Robblee

Altar Guild

Jane Brooke, Heather McBrayer, Gail Dickerson, Liz Moss, Lori Sadler, Joanne Robblee

Flower Guild

Elizabeth Boetsch, Claudia Ellis, Gail Dick, Rene Glidden, Carol Gosse, Catherine Harcus,
Elizabeth Harralson, Peggy Riethmiller, Joy Harris, Kathy Kozak

Clergy, Staff and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church

Wendy Moses Bearden, Financial Secretary (bookkeeper@graceepiscopalexington.org)

The Rev. Tuck Bowerfind, Rector (frtuck@graceepiscopalexington.org)

Connie Bryant, Sexton

Martha Jones Burford, Minister of Music (martha@graceepiscopalexington.org)

Sharon Massie, Program Director (sharon@graceepiscopalexington.org)

Lisa McGuire, Parish Administrator (lisa@graceepiscopalexington.org)

David Connolly (term ends 2022), Gail Dickerson, Sr. Warden (gdickerson447@gmail.com, term ends 2020), Punky Dod (term ends 2021), Don Ellis (term ends 2020), Tom Gosse (term ends 2020), Diana Kenney (term ends 2022), William McCorkle (term ends 2022), John Milford (term ends 2022), Elizabeth Moss, Jr. Warden (emoss267@gmail.com, term ends 2021), Judy Schram (term ends 2021), Steve Shultis (term ends 2020), Cecile West-Settle. (term ends 2021), Buster Lewis, Treasurer (term ends 2020), Lisa McGuire, Clerk (term ends 2020).