



## Worship with Communion

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – A New School Year Begins

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on August 29, 2021

[go.mysjec.com/facebook](https://go.mysjec.com/facebook) or [go.mysjec.com/youtube](https://go.mysjec.com/youtube)

*You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.*

**Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!**

### ♪ **Thou, Whose Almighty Word**

Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray, and, where the Gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight,  
heal to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,  
now to all humankind, let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy Dove, speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the waters' face bearing the gifts of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place, let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide, let there be light!

*Text: John Marriott, 1813. Tune: MOSCOW/ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1769.*

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

*People* And blessed be God's 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.

*People* **AMEN!**

*All* 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!

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

*People* **AMEN!**

## **A New School Year Begins**

*Celebrant* We find ourselves in the beginning of a new school year; perhaps one of the most unique school years in any of our lifetimes, filled with new challenges and new opportunities. We worship a God of new creations and new beginnings. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God created new life, blessed that life, and called it good.

*People* **O God, we thank you for new beginnings, and for this new school year. We give you thanks and praise that you call us good.**

*Celebrant* Bless the parents, families, and other guardians who guide their children, hold up dreams for them, hug them, read to them, drive them all over town, support them, trust them, pray for them, and give them more values and time and love than they knew they had.

*People* **We lift them up to you, O God, and we offer you our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Bless the teachers, assistants, librarians, aides, administrators, facilitators, advisors, cooks, coaches, drivers, tutors, volunteers, and others who encourage students, teach them, believe in them, care for their needs, and give them more time and energy than they knew that had.

*People* **We lift them up to you, O God, and we offer you our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Bless the students of all ages who dream so big, work so hard, and achieve so much. Bless their hope and joy, as well as their anxiety and

fears. Help them discover new friendships and cherish old ones. Instill in them a vision beyond tomorrow.

**People** **We lift them up to you, O God, and we offer you our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Bless all schools, colleges, and universities, be they public, private, or home schools, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Bless all participants as they experience education in new ways.

**People** **We lift them up to you, O God, and we offer you our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Bless all of us as we encourage and support all students, parents, teachers, and others involved in education. May we lend our wisdom and support, our time and patience, and our prayers and resources to the communal work of guiding young people. Help us, God, to seek ways to support quality education for every student.

**People** **We lift them up to you, O God, and we offer you our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** **Almighty God, strengthen us to love all your children... those who are motivated, and those who are misguided... those who are bullied, and those who are bullies... those who are forgotten, and those who are favored. Help us find ways to help all students grow intellectually, physically, and spiritually. Help us to appreciate and support those under-appreciated professionals who've committed themselves to educate others. Help us to be knowledgeable advocates and supporters of education for all. Bless all of us, O God, in the many ways each of us learns and teaches. AMEN!**

## **First Lesson**

*Reader* A reading of Song of Solomon chapter 2, verses 8 through 13.

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the

time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Unison Reading**

*Reader* Let us read in unison Psalm 45, verses 1 through 2 and 7 through 10.

*All* My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer. You are the fairest of mortals; grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your dominion; you love righteousness and hate iniquity. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions. All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad. The daughters of rulers stand among the ladies of the court; at your side is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.

## **New Testament**

*Reader* A reading of James chapter 1, verses 17 through 27.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

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

*Celebrant* When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of

you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*All* 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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: The Way of Love

*Reader* Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the United States might live in unity and peace.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*All* **Jesus, guide us in your Way of Love.**

*Reader* Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us in to live as your Beloved Community in this age and in the age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*All* **AMEN!**

*Reader* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*All* **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!**

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **AMEN!**

*Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

*All* **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

*Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

*All* **O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and**



courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

*Celebrant* To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

*All* AMEN!

## **Passing the Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **Invitation to Communion**

*from the Iona Community, Scotland*

*Celebrant* The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

## **♪ Praise the Source of Faith and Learning**

Praise the source of faith and learning who has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey  
keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray:

God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.

Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound  
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought  
has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.

May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed  
lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.

As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow  
 till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,  
 blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course  
 till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

Words: Thomas H Troeger, 1987. Music: *HYFRYDOL*, Rowland H Prichard, 1830.

## Offering Our Gifts

*Celebrant* Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at [mySJEC.com/donate](http://mySJEC.com/donate). We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

*Celebrant* Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

*People* **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*All* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*All* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*All* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*All* **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

*Celebrant* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All* **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant* Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**All Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

**All AMEN!**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All 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!**

## **Breaking Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.*

**People** In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* 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* May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

*All* Alleluia! AMEN!

## **♪ Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

Lord, you give the Great Commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."

Lest the church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,

help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."

That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,

give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."

Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;

With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffrey Rowthorn, 1978, ©1978 by Hope Publishing. Music: *ABBOT'S LEIGH*, 1942, Cyril V Taylor. © 1942, 1970 Hope Pub.

## **Sending**

*Celebrant* Go forth sharing the Good News of God's love! Alleluia, alleluia!

*People* Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

## **St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220**

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

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