

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

Password 014954



Prelude Dear Lord and father of mankind

Opening Hymn What wondrous love is this

Celebrant Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant Let us pray

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Ezekiel 18: 1 - 4, 25 - 32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Reader may say

If you were content Lord, you would not bother us; but you are restless.

People: May your restlessness be born in us, that you upset our easiness and require us to respond.

Canticle *My hope is built on nothing less*

A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

Philippians 2: 1 - 13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do

nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Reader may say

Use me, O Lord, for the work you have me do.
People: And taking me, help me not to resist you.

Gradual *Forgiveness* Perf. By the 5:03 Band

The Holy Gospel

Then the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (21: 23 - 32)
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon Rev. Margaret VanAuker

An Affirmation of Faith (New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)

Celebrant: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

People: We believe in God: Who has created and is creating.

Who has come in Jesus. The Word made flesh.

to reconcile and make new.

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To love and to serve others.

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

An Invitation to Repentance

The Celebrant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world that you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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 Prayers of the People

Inspired by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the ministers of the church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Robert our Bishops, Ken and Lisa, our clergy, Betsy, our clergy emeritus. Kip, Patrick, Deb, Tom and Barbara, our wardens, Steve, our treasurer; for our vestry and other mission leaders, and for those who serve the Gospel at St Andrew's, Clear Spring; St Anne's, Smithsburg; and St John's, Hagerstown; and, for Janet K. Kuria, Ann M. Ritonia and Edie Holton *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For every member of the human family, that we be guided to all truth by the Spirit of truth *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the stewards of the earth, and for the renewed witness to the gospel among people serving in positions of public trust, especially for Donald, President of the United States, Larry, Governor of the State of Maryland, and those who serve us in County and State; that all accept creation as a wondrous gift, and

work to preserve its beauty, and the dignity and respect of all creatures great and small *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who celebrate community here, that our labors spread joy and our witness brings peace *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all the sick and suffering, the lonely and the dying, especially all others we raise before you...

(Members are encouraged to pray silently or aloud for those known and unknown to our community. When all petitions have been offered, and a period of silence has been kept, the leader continues...)

That their affliction lead to endurance, their endurance to virtue, and their virtue to hope *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died, especially John Ward, Joe Martinez, Mark Delozier, Margaret Kepich and Brian Lovelace, and for those who mourn them *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted, *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have suffered at the hands of hurricane or wildfire, for those who have died, those who have been injured, those who have been displaced, those who have lost everything, those who bring relief, and those who risk their lives to battling nature *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. We remember our Black brothers and sisters, beloved children of God, groaning under the weight of redlining, segregation, underfunded schools, unequal economic

opportunity, indignity, and ever-present fear. Especially today we remember our brothers and sisters in Louisville, beloved children of God. We pray for those who protest, those whose lives and property have been disrupted and for those who seek to maintain order and safety. May your generous and gentle spirit be present. We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and the grief and anger in our communities. We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments. We remember the police officers who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, beloved children of God who feel afraid for themselves, their partners, their families, and their fellow citizens. We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We know that the sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Help us turn away from this sin of division and toward your all-encompassing love. Silence

The Celebrant continues

O God, from whom good things flow, we thank you and bless you. Answer our prayers and bring us hope through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives with you in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
People And also with you

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Love Imagine Dragons Perf. By the PFC World Players

Celebrant: Lord God, in the service of your Kingdom, grant us the peace we may have, show us the peace we should seek.

People: And give us the strength to do without, especially the peace we must forego for Jesus' sake.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Author of all that is good and holy. For by water and the Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your love and reconciliation in all the world. Therefore, with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of the children of Abraham to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, 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 God’s new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we acclaim you, O Christ,

Celebrant and People:

This is the death we celebrate This is the new life we proclaim
This is the vision we live

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. AMEN.

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

People and Celebrant

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

Celebrant: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of one loaf and drink from one cup.

People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with you, and one with each other

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn *Lord, dismiss us with your blessing*

Dismissal