

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans
Meditation: Waltier Blocker, Minister of Music

Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Seminarian: Kathryn Brossa

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Summer Music Ministry

Musical Guests: The Harris Family:

Josiah A. Harris, Ellis I. Harris, Noah J. Harris, Asa N. Harris

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- “ I Will Call Upon the Lord”

I will call upon the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised

I will call upon the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised

The Lord giveth and blessed be the Rock

And let the God of my salvation be exalted

The Lord giveth and blessed be the Rock

And let the God of my salvation be exalted.

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation

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

The People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.

The Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

The 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. AMEN.

The Gloria in excelsis

The Celebrant and The People

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.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also, with you.

The Celebrant: Let us pray

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The First Reading: Hosea 11:1-11

Deborah Camp-Frye

A Reading from the Book of Hosea.

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests and devours because of their schemes.

My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Sharon Harper

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures forever.

Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; *
**from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

Some wandered in desert wastes; *
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

Whoever is wise will ponder these things, *
and consider well the mercies of the LORD.

The Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Kim Phillips

A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things-- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn--“We’ll Understand It Better”

**Lift Every Voice and Sing
(LEVAS) #207 (vv. 1-2)**

**1) We are often tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempest oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by. [Chorus]**

**Chorus: By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We’ll tell the story how we’re over come;
For we’ll understand it better by and by.**

**2) We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter thirsty hills and barren lands;**

**We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His word,
We will understand it better by and by.**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Fr. Jay Collins

The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn--"We'll Understand It Better"

LEVAS # 207 (vv. 3-4)

**3) Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
But He guides us with His eye and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. [Chorus]**

**Chorus: By and by when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we're over come;
For we'll understand it better by and by.**

**4) Temptations hidden snares often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for many a thoughtless word or deed;
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by. [Chorus]**

The Meditation

Waltier Blocker, Minister of Music

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Celebrant

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.**

The Prayers of the People

Tynecia Wilson

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

The Confession

BCP 360

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (Silence is kept)

The Celebrant and The People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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.

The Absolution

The 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 Peace

The Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People: And also, with you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and Offering

The Offertory Selection

The Harris Family

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

The People: We lift them to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface)*

Therefore, we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

The Celebrant and the 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.**

The Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, 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 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."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is your, Almighty Father, now and forever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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, forever and ever. AMEN.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

The People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray: 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.

The 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 Distribution of Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and the People:

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.

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

The People: We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

The Announcements

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "Let It Rise"

1) Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the praises of our King, rise among us. Let it rise.

Oh, oh, oh, let it rise.

2) Let the love of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the love of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the praises of our King, rise among us. Let it rise.

Oh, oh, oh, let it rise.

3) Let the peace of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the peace of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the praises of our King, rise among us. Let it rise.

Oh, oh, oh, let it rise.

4) Let the joy of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the joy of the Lord, rise among us.

Let the praises of our King, rise among us. Let it rise.

Oh, oh, oh, let it rise.

The Dismissal

The Postlude

Fr. Jay Collins
St. Thomas Music Ministry