

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

10:00 am Sunday, October 1, 2023

www.churchofascension.org

(727) 447-3469

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two; The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

We Gather Together/Count your blessings
Please welcome saxophonist Dennis Saloky this morning!

Brant Adams

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 473

Lift High the Cross (Crucifer)

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing as able, the Celebrant says

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

The Celebrant may say

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Rutter) (WLP 900)

Glo-ry to God in the high-est,
and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,
heav'n-ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
(♩ = ♩ of preceding - same beat as before, not slower) Fa - ther,
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right
 hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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”? ³“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they

considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn, then, and live.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-8

Remain seated.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated,
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²**Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.

⁴**Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.

⁶**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; ***
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸**He guides the humble in doing right ***
 and teaches his way to the lowly.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:1-13

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to

your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN 448 vs 1-4 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high (Deus tuorum militum)*
All stand as able.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

Remain standing as able

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²³When [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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a

prophet.” ²⁷So 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.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 448 v 5 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high (Deus tuorum militum)*

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Jim Sorvillo

THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand as able.

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: FORM III (BCP p. 387)

All remain standing or kneel as able.

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 Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, Dabney, Michael, and Barry our Bishops; Jim and Bill, our Priests; Sandy, our Deacon; and all bishops and other ministers;

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 [_____, and all] 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.

For those on our prayer list [_____.]

For those celebrating birthdays [_____] and anniversaries [_____.]

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSiON OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Priest stands and says

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 (BCP p. 360)

All stand as able.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus Loves Me
Saxophone: Dennis Saloky

Michael Hassell

*Jesus loves me! this I know;
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died
Heaven's gates to open wide!
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
close beside me all the way;
if I love him when I die,
he will take me home on high.*

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 v 3

From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th)

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP p. 361)

The People remain standing as able.

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 him thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

SANCTUS S 125 *Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)* (BCP p. 362)

The People stand or kneel as able.

The Celebrant continues

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

...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 yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Where He Leads Me/He Leadeth Me
Saxophone: Dennis Saloky

Brant Adams

I must tell Jesus

Larry Shackley

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 366)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

RECESSIONAL HYMN 420 ***When in our music God is glorified (Engelberg)***

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

That Will be Glory
Saxophone: Dennis Saloky

Brant Adams