



October 4, 2020

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Prelude on “Llangloffan”
Arrangement © 2011 by Robert Chamberlin
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Robert Chamberlin

The Introit

These are the holy ten commands,
Which came to us from God’s own hands
By Moses, who obeyed His will,
Standing upon Sin’i’s hill.
Kyrie eleis’. (Lord have mercy.)

The Welcome

The Call to Worship

Leader: O Lord, you are God. There is no other God but you.

People: We renounce all that we have allowed to come between us.

Leader: O Lord, we worship you. We praise and honor your name.

People: We worship you on this, your holy day.

Leader: For your love, for your word, for all that you have given:

People: O Lord, we thank you and praise you. We love you.

The Opening Hymn No. 390

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

1. “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew;
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bond of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

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The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, your word bursts forth into our lives
 like a glorious sunrise.
 You speak, and our hearts rejoice.
 You command, and our eyes are opened.
 The sound of your voice brings revival to our souls.
 Your words are purer than the finest gold.
 True and righteous one, living Word, light our way.
 As we listen to your Spirit,
 may the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts
 be accepted in your sight,
 O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

The Prayer of Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter pages 750-751 with response 1

Psalm 19

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Response:

Ps. 19:7

Hebrew melody, from *Sacred Harmony*

The law of God is just, reviving the soul.

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
 and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
- 2 **Day to day pour forth speech,
 and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
 their voice is not heard;
- 4 **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
 and their words to the ends of the world.**
 In them God has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
 and runs its course with joy like a strong man.
- 6 **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
 and its circuit to the end of them;
 and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

Response

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
 and reviving the soul;
**the testimony of the Lord is sure,
 making wise the simple;**

- 8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**
- 9 the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Response

- 11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **But who can understand one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 13 Also keep your servant from the insolent;
let them not have dominion over me!
**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**
- 14 **Let the worlds of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Response

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

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

The Hymn No. 2230

Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing

SUGAR GROVE

1. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
on the love that makes us one;
here, as Christians, to acknowledge
you are Lord, and you alone.
2. God of love, unless you bless us
how can we each other bless?
Only as you live within us
is there depth of happiness.
3. May our loving be a sharing
of the gifts we each possess;
may no failure of forbearance
turn our love to bitterness.
4. Lord, we come to ask your blessing
in the presence of our friends:
Grant us joy that blesses others,
grant us love that never ends.

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Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.
People:



The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:33-46

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People:



The Homily

A Pretty Good Way to Live!!

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Affirmation of Faith No. 881 *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Let the Words of My Mouth

John Weldon

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be always acceptable in thy sight,
O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19: 14

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The Doxology No. 95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,

with your people on earth

and with all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Congregation is seated and the pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

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 that 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. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Giving of the Bread and Cup

The Music During Communion

The Prayer after Communion

The Hymn No. 425

O Crucified Redeemer

LLANGLOFFAN

1. O Crucified redeemer,
 whose life blood we have spilt,
 to you we raise our guilty hands,
 and humbly own our guilt.
 Today we see your passion
 spread open to our gaze;
 the crowded street, the country road,
 its Calvary displays
2. We hear your cry of anguish,
 we see your life outpoured
 where battle fields run red with blood,
 our neighbors' blood, O Lord;
 and in that other battle,
 the fight for daily bread,
 where might is right and self is king,
 we see your thorn-crowned head
3. The groaning of creation
 wrung out by pain and care,
 the anguish of a million hearts
 that break in dumb despair;
 O crucified Redeemer,
 these are your cries of pain;
 O may they break our selfish hearts,
 and love come in to reign.

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The Benediction

The Choral Response

God these commandments gave therein
To show thee, child of man, thy sin
And make thee also well perceive
How man unto God should live.
Kyrie eleis'. (Lord have mercy.)

The Postlude

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Afro-American Spiritual

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We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Emily Downey, Lynn Kotrady Joel Coreas, Sam Cook

Scriptures

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, ^[a] the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; ^[c] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, ^[d] I do not consider that I have made it my own; ^[e] but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly ^[f] call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:23-32

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’

³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.