

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA**  
**Antecomunion for the Fifth Sunday**  
**after Pentecost (Proper 10 Year A)**  
**July 12, 2020 at 10 AM**

**Musical Prelude**

Dr. Grant Moss

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

**Penitential Order**

*The Presider says* Blessed be the one holy and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Scripture:**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Minister says* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*Silence is 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 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.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, **Have mercy upon us.**

**The Collect of the Day** *The Presider says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever  
*People* **Amen.**

**First Lesson**

*Isaiah 55:10-13*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 65 BCP page 672-673**

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \* to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.  
**To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \* because of their transgressions.**  
Our sins are stronger than we are, \* but you will blot them out.  
**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! \***  
**they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,**  
**by the holiness of your temple.**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, \*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

**You make fast the mountains by your power; \* they are girded about with might.**

You still the roaring of the seas, \* the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.

**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; \*  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

**You prepare the grain, \* for so you provide for the earth.**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

**You crown the year with your goodness, \* and your paths overflow with plenty.**

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves  
with grain; \* let them shout for joy and sing.**

## **The Second Lesson**

*Romans 8:1-11*

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.           **Thanks be to God.**

*A time of silence is kept after the lesson.*

## **The Gospel**

*Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

**Musical Selection Hymnal 505**

Vocal soloist Annie Rogers

1 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
in ev'ry need thou bring us aid,  
proceeding forth from heaven's throne,  
from God, the Father and the Son;  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.

2 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
increase our faith in our dear Lord;  
unless your grace the pow'r should give,  
none can believe in Christ and live;  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.

3 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
make us to love your sacred word;  
the holy flame of love impart,  
that charity may warm each heart;  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.

4 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God,  
enlighten us by that same word;  
teach us to know God's radiant love,  
lead us to Christ who reigns above;  
O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God.

**The Nicene Creed** *recited in unison* **BCP pg 358-359**

**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.**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for our country and our world, and for leaders of nations and communities to  
lead with courage, compassion, and commitment to justice and peace.

**Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We pray for the peace and unity of the whole church and for all those we serve in the  
name of Christ. **Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We pray for first responders, essential workers, health workers and researchers  
responding selflessly to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to work together for an end to racism,  
oppression, and violence, that we may bring to birth God's dream for our life together.

**Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in any need or trouble, those afflicted by illness of body, mind or spirit; those heavily burdened by injustice, isolation, or addiction; and remembering especially those on our parish prayer list: Sally Conway, David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, Norma Keough, Bre, Mary Thurber, Mary Wozniak and her parents Edward and Mildred Lindsay, our Manna guests and volunteers, and the whole St. John's Church community.

**Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those in mourning, grief, and anguish, especially the loved ones of those who have died. **Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Grant peaceful rest in the arms of love to those who have died.

**Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Dear God, open our hearts to your power moving around, between, and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all creation through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Presider:* 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Prayer of Spiritual Communion** *(adapted from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people and your Church,  
we delight to offer to you praise and thanksgiving.  
We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection;  
we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today  
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you  
to come spiritually into our hearts. Heal and strengthen us with your grace,  
Lord Christ and let us never be separated from you.  
May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, mother of us all. **Amen**

*Presider:* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,  
Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**Postlude Music**

Dr. Grant Moss