

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA
Holy Eucharist for the Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost (Proper 19 Year A)
September 13, 2020 at 8 AM and 10 AM

Prelude Music

Dr. Grant Moss, music director and organist

Welcome and Announcements

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

Collect for Purity **BCP page 355**

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.**

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Christ our true and only Light: receive our morning prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13 BCP page 733-734

Bless the Lord, O my soul, * and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, * and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all your sins * and heals all your infirmities;

**He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

He satisfies you with good things, * and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness * and judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses * and his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for ever.

**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, * so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, * so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in

honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

A time of silence is kept after the lesson.

The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

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 Form VI **BCP page 392**

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in the Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially those on our parish prayer list: Sally Conway, David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, Lillian, Jon, Nancy Harvin and her sister Betsy, Janet, Norma Keough, Bre, Betty DeTurck, Vanessa, Melissa, Mary Thurber, Elaine Iucci, Roland Bergeron, Mary Wozniak and her mother Mildred Lindsay, our Manna guests and volunteers, and for the whole St. John's Church community- we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those suffering and afflicted by racist systems in our society, those at risk due to climate disasters, especially the fires in the western U.S.; for respect and healing for creation and relationships. **Lord, have mercy.**

The presider adds the following collect

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant says Let us confess our sins to God.
Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Sign of Peace *(please remain in your place and WAVE to others)*
The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Music (at 10 AM, weather permitting) H410

Vocalist Annie Rogers

Praise my soul, the king of heaven

*Verse 1 Praise my soul the King of heaven
To his feet your tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
evermore his praises sing
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King*

*Verse 2 Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress
Praise him still the same forever
Slow to chide and swift to bless
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness*

*Verse 3 Father-like he tends and spares us
Well our feeble frame he knows
In his hands he gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows*

*Verse 4 Angels help us to adore Him!
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow before Him!
Dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All recite in unison

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 Israel 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 for us, 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, according to his command, O God,
Presider and People
**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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, Gracious God, now and for ever. **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.

Fraction Anthem

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feasts. Alleluia!**

Presider: **The gifts of God for the People of God.**

For outdoor worshippers: please remain at your seat and Holy Communion will be brought to you by the priest. Due to the coronavirus, we will be receiving only the consecrated bread. Remember that the Episcopal Church teaches that receiving communion in one form is nonetheless a full communion of the Lord's body and blood.

[Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(adapted from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services) for those participating virtually]*

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.**

Post-Communion Prayer *in unison*

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.

Blessing *adapted from a blessing written by St. Clare of Assisi*

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy,

has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.

Go in peace to follow the good road and may the blessing of God,

Father Son and Holy Spirit, mother of us all, be with you

and those you love for ever and ever. **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