ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA  
Holy Eucharist for the Sixteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost (Proper 20 Year A)  
September 20, 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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and  
even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those  
that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson  

*Jonah 3:10-4:11*

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways,  
God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; 
and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and  
said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I  
fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And
now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And
the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat
down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade,
waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his
head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But
when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that
it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down
on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is
better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes,
angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which
you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and
perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in
which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know
their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8  BCP pages 801-802

I will exalt you, O God my King, * and bless your Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you * and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty * and all your marvelous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

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

The Second Lesson  Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful
labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my
desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is
more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and
continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly
in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.
Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A time of silence is kept after the lesson.

The Gospel Matthew 20:1-16
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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, BettyLou 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 first responders, front-line workers and those seeking employment, 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 west and Hurricane Sally; for respect and healing for creation and relationships. Lord, have mercy.

For those who have died and those who mourn, that they may find and be found by God, we pray to the Lord. 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) Vocalist Annie Rogers

LEVAS 72 Just a closer walk with Thee

I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

-Refrain-

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

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 feats. 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