

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA
Holy Eucharist for the Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost (Proper 21 Year A)
September 27, 2020 at 8 AM

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.

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**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson

Ezekiel 18: 1-4,25-32

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What 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"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know 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.

Yet 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? When 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. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet 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?

Therefore 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. Cast 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? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-8 BCP pages 614-615

To 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.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, * and teach me your paths.

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.

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

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.

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

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

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

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

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

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

A time of silence is kept after the lesson.

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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

When 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?" Jesus 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. Did 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?' But if we
say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So
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.

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

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

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 and her newborn son David, 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.**

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.

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.**

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, mother of us all,
be among you and remain with you always. **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!**