

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA
Holy Eucharist for the Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2020 at 10 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.**

Canticle of Praise: *A Song of God's Love* recited in unison (1 John 4:7-11)

Beloved, let us love one another, * for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, * for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us, * that God sent his only Son into
the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, * we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson

A reading from the book of Ephesians (1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a *recited unison*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

The Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger

and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Brief Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

Godly Play Story of St. Nicholas of Myra

Olivia Leone

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

United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Creator, strengthen all us by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless Douglas, our bishop, and all clergy and ministers of your Church, that by faithful proclamation of your word, we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit, that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ from glory to glory.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to the world and all its peoples the peace that comes from above, that they may find Christ's way of love, freedom and life.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are wounded by illness, grief or any trouble, that their suffering may be turned to eternal joy.
We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, Nancy Harvin and family, Janet, the Brandt family, Norma Keough, Bre, BettyLou DeTurck, Melissa, Mary Thurber, Mary Wozniak and her mother Mildred Lindsay, our Manna guests and volunteers, and for the whole St. John's Church community.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember in your mercy all those who have died, especially Michael Brandt and Betsy Harvin. Guide us all to your kingdom and grant us your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power, be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession

The Presider says Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People in unison

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

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Music *For all the saints (vss 1-4)* Annie Rogers, soloist

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presider: 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 feast. Alleluia!**

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

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.**

Post Communion Prayer *in unison*

**God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

May God give to you and to all those whom you love
comfort and peace, light and joy, courage and strength,
in this world and the next; and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, mother of us all, be 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!**

Postlude Music

Dr. Grant Moss, Music Director