

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA**  
**Holy Eucharist for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 8, 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 P** A Song of the Spirit from *Revelation 22:12-17*

**“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord,  
“and bringing my reward with me, \*  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.**

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \* the beginning and the end.”**

**Blessed are those who do God’s commandments, that they may have the right  
to the tree of life, \* and may enter the city through the gates.**

**“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \* with this testimony for all the churches.**

**“I am the root and the offspring of David, \* I am the bright morning star.”**

**“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; \* “Come!” let each hearer reply!**

**Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.**

**The Collect of the Day**

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

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and  
strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully  
and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who  
with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. **Amen**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Lesson**

*Revelation 7:9-17*

A reading from the book of Revelation.

### **First Lesson**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

*Wisdom 6:12-16*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned  
by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.  
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.  
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,  
for she will be found sitting at the gate.  
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,  
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,  
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,  
and meets them in every thought.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 20 BCP page 608**

**Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \* O Lord, make haste to help me.**

**Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; \*  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

**Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*  
because they are ashamed.**

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \*  
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"**

**But as for me, I am poor and needy; \* come to me speedily, O God.**

**You are my helper and my deliverer; \* O Lord, do not tarry.**

### **The Second Lesson**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do  
who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words..

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

### **The Gospel**

*Matthew 25:1-13*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

### **Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

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

**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 IV **BCP page 388**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;  
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

For first responders, front-line workers, public health researchers, we pray to the Lord.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those suffering and afflicted by racist systems in our society, those at risk due to climate disasters and coronavirus, and those seeking employment.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, especially Michael Brandt, and those who mourn, that they may find and be found by God

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*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 Presider says* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*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** (*please remain in your place and WAVE to others*)

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

## Offertory Music “Cwm Rhonda”(Welsh)

Annie Rogers, soloist

*Ar glwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch,  
Fi, bererin gwael ei wedd,  
Nad oes ynof nerth na bywyd  
Fel yn gorwedd yn y bedd:  
Hollalluog, Hollalluog,  
Ydyw'r Un a'm cwyd i'r lan.  
Ydyw'r Un a'm cwyd i'r lan*

Lord, lead me through the wilderness,  
Me, a pilgrim of poor appearance,  
I don't have strength or life in me,  
Like lying in the grave:  
Omnipotent, Omnipotent  
Is the one who brings me to the shore.  
Is the one who brings me to the shore.

*Agor y ffynhonnau melus  
'N tarddu i maes o'r Graig y sydd;  
Colofn dân rho'r nos i'm harwain,  
A rho golofn niwl y dydd;  
Rho i mi fanna, Rho i mi fanna,  
Fel na bwyfyn llwfwrhau.  
Fel na bwyfyn llwfwrhau.*

Open the sweet fountains  
Flowing from the Rock that is;  
Give a column of fire to lead me at night,  
And give a column of fog during the day.  
Give me manna. Give me manna,  
So that I shall not falter.  
So that I shall not falter.

*Pan yn troedio glan Iorddonen,  
Par i'm hofnau suddo i gyd;  
Dwg fi drwy y tonnau geirwon  
Draw i Ganaan – gartref clyd:  
Mawl diderfyn. Mawl diderfyn  
Fydd i'th enw byth am hyn.  
Fydd i'th enw byth am hyn.*

When I walk the bank of the Jordan,  
Cause all my fears to sink;  
Take me through the roughest waves  
Over to Canaan, a cosy home:  
Unending praise. Unending praise  
Will be to Your name for this.  
Will be to Your name for this.

## 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) 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*

**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**

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 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**