

Pentecost 17, September 27, 2020

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one holy and living God

Glory to God, forever and ever

A Song of Praise (together) The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; It shall bloom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear!" Here is your God, coming with judgement to save you. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf be unstopped. Then shall the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in wilderness and streams in the desert; The burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground, springs of water. The ransomed of God shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Collect of the Day (together)

Welcoming God, you receive and bless all who come to you in humility. Show us our false pride, that we may repent of all conceit and arrogance and, caring for one another, may honor Jesus to the glory of your name, Amen.

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalm 25:1-8

- 1 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.
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

- 3 Show me your ways, O God, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 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.
- 5 Remember, O God, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O God.
- 7 Gracious and upright are you; *
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
- 8 You guide the humble in doing right *
and teach your way to the lowly.

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

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 Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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 Sermon The Rev. Beth Sherman

The Nicene Creed (*The people stand as they are able.*)

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 became human. 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 giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and 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.

The Prayers of the People (*The people stand as they are able.*)

Reader: Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and pray for the common good of the whole human family. *In the pause after each bidding, add your own prayers either silently or aloud.*

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Nicholas, our Bishop; for the people of God, gathered from every nation under heaven; may we proclaim in every language, the dawning of a new age. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the people and clergy of St. Michael's, Bristol.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the world: For the United Nations and for all dedicated to world peace; may the Spirit's call put an end to division and gather us as one. In this time of COVID, and in a world where racial inequality abounds, bring healing and give us courage to seek justice for all people. We remember especially.....

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For creation: that each person may have a reverence for the earth, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and share the abundance of this earth with generosity and integrity.

We remember especially_____

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those oppressed, afflicted or in need: that we may seek out those who feel unloved or neglected, the prisoner and the stranger, with welcome and care. We remember also those in need of prayer and healing, especially__

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the needs of the local community: for those whose labor is difficult, for those whose hearts are hurting, for those who are bereaved and for those who have lost their way. For those who serve this community in a wide variety of ministries especially..... May the spirit inspire all of us to place the gifts we have received at the service of the common good.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those who have died: that they continue to rest in your love, and discover the joys of eternal life, remembering today

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, including those celebrating birthdays: Emily Sophia Derreza, Kenneth Roberts, Hiroko Shimizu, Dwight Giles and Barry Olson; and for the anniversary of Leland & Diana Norton-Jackson.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

All: O God, who created all people in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *The people stand as they are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Eucharist

At the fraction:

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Response: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; in Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal response: Thanks be to God.

Announcements: Please put offertory in the basket on the table upon entering or exiting