

Pentecost 15
September 5, 2021

Collect

Divine love, undaunted by death and fear, who went to the depths to bring back life: in the power of the cross shape a people of service, breaking bread for a hungry world; through Jesus Christ, the true food. **Amen.**

First Lesson Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Psalm 125

- 1 . They who trust in God are like Mount Zion,
* which cannot be moved, but stands fast for
ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does God stand round about the

people, from this time forth for evermore.

- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, * so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O God, to those who are good * and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, God will lead them away with the evildoers; * but peace be upon Israel.

Second Lesson Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always

persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The Gospel John 6:56-69

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter

answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

For this week’s prayers.....

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. **In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for a blessing upon all human labor, and for those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. **In our Parish**, we give thanks for the following birthdays: Linda Wilson, Melissa Gibson Krause, Andy Stover and Rachel Lynch; and the anniversaries of Bill & Judi Betty and Rob & Melissa Krause.

