



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

August 15, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

Voluntary

Opening Sentences

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the LORD!
they are studied by all who delight in them.

**His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures for ever.
He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.

**He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever;
holy and awesome is his Name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever. (Psalm 111)**

Presider Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,

"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:9-14 (Prayed responsively)

Fear the LORD, you that are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

**The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Who among you loves life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
Keep your tongue from evil-speaking
and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

✦ The Holy Gospel John 6:51-58

Deacon The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 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.”

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

The Homily A marked period of silence follows the Homily.

Musical Interlude

The Nicene Creed

**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 and the Son.
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.**

The Prayers of the People

As a mother setting food before her hungry children, God satisfies our most basic needs and our deepest longings. Confident that we have a generous God, we pray now for our church and our world, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Because we need to be nourished by the Living Bread, we pray for our church that we might both be willing to eat of your food and in turn be food for one another. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because we live in evil days and often act like fools, we pray that our world may not continue in ignorance but discern what is truly good and just. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because we are prone to be competitive and unconcerned about one another, we pray for all political leaders that we might find in them examples of generous service and self-forgetfulness. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because there are so many poor and hungry people in our world, we pray that we may be generous in giving, empathetic and compassionate in serving, and sensitive in understanding the needs of others. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because our minds need to be continually expanded, we pray for students, teachers and professors who are in need of prayers, encouragement and support during this COVID-19 pandemic. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because our world is pervaded by a spirit of skepticism and mistrust, we pray for unbelievers that they may find us to be confident people who know that God does indeed have a plan for our world. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because we are prone to sickness and trial, we pray for **Rudolph McEwan, David Myher, Elayne Karickoff, Barbara O'Neal, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Marilyn Adams, Mary Mainwaring, Katie Critcher, Denise Davis, Carmen Reeve, Beauty Munawa, Ramsey Zengbean, Terry Mumford, James Barber, Ginny Barber, Betty Johnson, Nancy Halbert, William Nail, and Celia Nail.** In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because life is a precious gift, we rejoice for those who celebrate birthdays this week. *[Here, names may be offered:].* In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because we have needs and sighs too deep for words, we rest in your endless bounty and goodness. *[Here, intercessions may be offered ending with:].* In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because 4.3 million global citizens have succumbed to COVID-19 and because there are millions more infected and suffering, we look to your healing and power to save. In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because you are the Saviour of our souls, we pray for Betty Jo Jacobs and all who have died in the peace of Christ. [*Silence is kept*], In faith we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon Because you have already forgiven us, we pray for confidence to confess our sins and trust in your mercy.

The People may kneel or bow.

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.

The Presider announces the Absolution of Sin

The Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Here, the people may reverently bow or wave in acknowledgment of others; avoiding handshakes and hugs.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: All things come from you, O God.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed _ , and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread also known as 'The Fraction'.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Please remain masked during the distribution of Communion. You may wish to hold your communion bread/wafer until the end of distribution, so we may all commune together.

Prayer after Communion

The people stand.

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.

When communion is being carried from the altar to those who are home bound.

Presider The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

People **Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.**

[N.], In the name of God and of this congregation, bear these gifts to those who are bound; share the Lord and bless His name.

Amen.

THE SENDING

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Voluntary

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats, Presider



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