



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

August 22, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

Voluntary

Opening Sentences

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

**Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.**

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

**Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

**LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.**

**Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

**For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. (Psalm 84:1-9)**

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our

God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

Psalm 34:15-22 (Prayed responsively)

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.**

He will keep safe all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.

**Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.**

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, 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.

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

✦ The Holy Gospel John 6:56-69

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

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."

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

Our God is indeed the God of our holy ancestors, faithful to all the promises made to our people. Wanting to serve our God and trusting that we will be protected in time of trial and preserved in time of evil, we bring our needs and longings into the divine presence, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That you may bless our church and raise up in our midst holy men and women to proclaim your gospel, celebrate your sacraments, and minister to those who long for your saving help, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless our world and deliver it into the hands of leaders who trust in your providence, serve others in your name, and work to establish a reign of justice and peace, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless our homes so they may be free from hatred, filled with love, and hospitable to those who are lonely, isolated, sick, or poor, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless partnerships and marriages so that in their love for one another they mirror the love that Christ has for the church, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless those who share your life with others; physicians who seek to bring health where there is sickness, educators to seek to bring wisdom where there is ignorance, and artists who seek to bring beauty where there is squalor, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless all who are sick and despairing especially: **Rudolph McEwan, David Myher, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Marilyn Adams, Mary Mainwaring, Katie Critcher, Denise Davis, Carmen Reeve, Ramsey Zengbean, James Barber, Ginny Barber, Betty Johnson, Nancy Halbert, William Nail, and Celia Nail**, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless those celebrating birthdays this week: **David Wray** (23th); **David Both, Hope Ethington** (28th), we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless and sustain the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake even on the heels of the assassination of the country's president, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless and sustain the people of Afghanistan in this time of religious, political and civil unrest; clarifying the true needs of all and bestowing just vision on all who wield power and decision making, we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may receive the 4.3 million global citizens have succumbed to COVID-19 and all who are infected and suffering. we pray to you, good and faithful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you may bless all who have died in the peace of Christ. [*Silence is kept*], we pray to you, good and faithful 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.

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. Tyrone Fowlkes, Presider



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