



THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

August 29, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

Voluntary

Opening Sentences

Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.
For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.**

I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,
Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides. (Psalm 26:1-8)**

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch

yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

Psalm 15 (Prayed responsively)

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,
who speaks the truth from his heart.
There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend;
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

**In his sight the wicked is rejected,
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
He has sworn to do no wrong
and does not take back his word.
He does not give his money in hope of gain,
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things
shall never be overthrown.**

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

+ The Holy Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Knowing that God hears our prayers when they are made in sincerity and humility, we pray for our church and our world in our time of need, saying: Hear us, good Lord.

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for our church that its structures promote justice, its laws foster integrity of heart, and its ministry model compassion. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for our world that we will be freed from that hypocrisy which lurks in our hearts, when we seek the assurance of external observance with the commitment of faith. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for all who are working to protect our country's most basic and prized right to vote and for all who govern in authority to be guided by right and just decisions. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for those who teach the word of God that they may embrace the justice of God in their own hearts as the call us into the life of God. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray that we may be delivered from all the wicked designs in the deep recesses of our hearts and so live justly with God and one another. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. **We pray for those who suffer in mind or body especially:** Rudolph McEwan, David Myher, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Marilyn Adams, Mary Mainwaring, Katie Critcher, Denise Davis, Carmen Reeve, James Barber, Ginny Barber, Betty Johnson, Nancy Halbert, William Nail, and Celia Nail. And for those celebrating birthdays this week: **Ashley** Earthman, **Maurice** King (29th), **Court** Crosby (31st); **Macy** Aguirre (4th); **Julie** Leak (5th). To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for our own needs and offer prayers for those we love. [*Here other intercessions may be offered.*] To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray that you will bless and sustain the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and guide our hearts in true service to our neighbors. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for calm and the safe evacuation of American service men and women out of Afghanistan in this time of political, civil and religious unrest. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray that you may receive the 4.5 million global citizens who have succumbed to COVID-19 and all who are infected and suffering. We pray all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and that they may dwell with the saints and remember us who struggle to live in justice and peace. To you we pray, O gracious God: **Hear us good Lord.**

Deacon And since we, by our own will, do not live justly, we pray for your help in strengthening us and for your mercy in the forgiveness of our sins.

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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