



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024 ~ 10am

Prelude

Entrance Hymn #1 ~ *Father, we Praise Thee*

Father, we praise thee, now the night is over,
active and watchful, stand we all before thee;
singing we offer prayer and meditation: thus we adore thee.

Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where thy saints united joy without ending.

All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us thy salvation;
thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.

Opening Words

Come, let us worship God with the passion and joy of King David and all the people who sang and danced before the ark of the covenant.

Let us worship our Savior with the songs of praise and thanksgiving of the apostle Paul and all who are blessed with every spiritual blessing.

God has blessed us in our Lord Jesus Christ, destined us to be children of God, and sealed us in the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God.

The Gloria

1982 Hymnal S 280

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

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD.

When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Leader The Word of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *(Let us say it responsively)*
Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 **For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 **Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle."
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

The Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

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.

Prayers of the People

Spirit of the living God, seal in us your Word of truth, the gospel of salvation, so that we can faithfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is in his name that we pray. **Amen.**

Holy Abba of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sends the Holy Spirit; to help us in our praying, open our senses to your creation, and our hearts to the needs of others.

Silence

Grant us faith, hope, and imagination to see your vision of the fullness of time when weapons will be crushed by peace, stomachs will be filled by abundant harvests generously shared, and thirsts quenched by pure rain falling from clean skies; diseases will be healed, minds made clear, and bodies made new, so that all things reveal oneness with Christ.

Silence

We lift up those we know who are sick or suffering, especially Elin Babin, David Bell, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, Don DiGiacomo, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Robert Long, Richard Lucia, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Lori, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Kathy Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Dom Tello, Joanie Tello, Jill Vaccaro and Family, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Walter, Baby Viviana, Lizzi, and Rachel.

For departed loved ones and friends, we ask for them to find eternal peace in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Concluding prayer

Complete the renewal you began in raising Jesus from the dead. Then with all creation shout with us. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

The godliness of Jesus Christ calls us to be holy and blameless, and the riches of God's grace promises to forgive our trespasses. Let us confess our sins.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and forgive us that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Consider what God has given to us in Jesus Christ; remember that, even how, the Holy Spirit dwells in us; rejoice that we are part of God's plan for all time. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving.

Offertory Hymn

#556 ~ Rejoice, Ye pure in Heart! (verses 1 - 4)

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

*Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,
give thanks, and sing.*

With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth.

Refrain

Your clear hosannas raise,
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud.

Refrain

Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe.

Refrain

Doxology

1982 Hymnal #380 (vs. 3 only)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Glorious God, you created us because you are love. It is your will and our destiny that we live into the full humanity of Jesus Christ so that we can praise 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 him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Minister and People

Sanctus

#S130 ~ *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Officiant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; and Jacob, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S155~*Christ, our Passover*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table, and everyone is welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Officiant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May the love of our creator, the peace of the Lord of Sabbath, and the power of Holy Spirit be upon you and shine through you.

Closing Hymn #470 ~ *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Announcements/Reminders

WHY PRAY?

The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer warmly invites clergy, lay leaders and members of congregations from across the Diocese to join a day of reflection and engagement, as we ask 'Why Pray?' Gatherings will be hosted at St. Paul's Newburyport, St. Thomas' Taunton, and the Cathedral Church of St. Paul Boston, July 27th, 10am to 2.30pm.

Prayer is at the heart of our call as Christians, but many Christians find it the most mysterious spiritual practice. How should we pray as a group or as individuals? Please join TSPC to explore this important question together, in honest and open conversation. All are welcome, from experienced prayer warriors to those who feel like beginners - and everything in between! Our day will include teaching, conversation, reflection, and of course prayer! All participants will leave with materials to bring back to their congregation, to continue the conversation and learning.

You are warmly invited to join us at whichever of the three locations works for you! Tea and coffee will be served at the start of the day, and you are invited to bring a packed lunch. Find all details, and sign up to attend, at stpaulboston.org/why-pray - or send your questions to tspc@diomass.org.

Newsletter Mailing

If you are receiving our monthly newsletter by (postal) mail, please consider another method; via email, downloading it from the church website, or by picking it up Sunday after worship. First Class U.S. postage rates are now 68 cents and are reported to increase another 5% this week. We are looking to reduce postage (and paper use). Kindly leave a note or contact the office if you wish to make a change - the next newsletter (for September) will be published in late August.

Thank you! ☺

Counting

We will be counting this month on Sunday the 28th; please forward any memorials, pledges, etc. beforehand - greatly appreciated!

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge

Stephen Sikorski, Music Director

Colleen Marcotte, Worship Leader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

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