



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024 ~10am

Prelude

Entrance Hymn

#512~Come, gracious Spirit

Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide
o'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.

Lead us to Christ, the living way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.

Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.

Opening Words:

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth;
It grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.
Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.
Thanks be to God!

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.
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

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

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your
grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for
the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson

[1 Samuel 15:34-16:13](#)

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeath of Saul. Samuel did not see
Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry
that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from
being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the
Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can
I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say,
'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what
you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what
the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him

trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Psalm

Psalm 20

- 1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, *
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- 2 **Send you help from his holy place ***
and strengthen you out of Zion;
- 3 Remember all your offerings *
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
- 4 **Grant you your heart's desire ***
and prosper all your plans.
- 5 We will shout for joy at your victory
and triumph in the Name of our God; *
may the LORD grant all your requests.
- 6 **Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed; ***
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,
with the victorious strength of his right hand.
- 7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, *
but we will call upon the Name of the LORD our God.

8 They collapse and fall down, *
but we will arise and stand upright.

9 O LORD, give victory to the king *
and answer us when we call.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

The Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Lord our God, who created all things and promises us an eternal realm, hear our prayers of intercession, spoken and unspoken.

We pray for peace.

(silence)

Eternal God, you sent us a Savior, Jesus Christ, to break down the walls of hostility that divide us. Send peace to the places where greed, pride, and anger turn nation against nation, race against race, church against church.

We pray for the leaders of the church and the nations.

(silence)

Mighty God, sovereign over all, give the leaders of the church and the leaders of nations the vision of your kingdom, that they may lead us with justice and goodwill.

We pray for the earth, God's creation.

(silence)

God of creation, you made all things in your wisdom and love. Grant us all a reverence for the earth that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

We pray for those who are in pain in body and mind.

(silence)

Merciful God, you bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick or in need, particularly 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, Jill Vaccaro and Family, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Walter, Baby Viviana, and Rachel. Stand with those who sorrow, show them hope by your Word, bring healing as a sign of your grace.

We pray for departed loved ones and friends, and for all who have risen in glory and found peace in your heavenly kingdom.

(silence)

Let us pray for friends and families.

(silence)

God of love, bless us and those we love, so that by drawing close to you we may be drawn closer to each other. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who died for us and rose for us, who reminds us of your saving grace. Amen.

Confession

When we gather to worship God, we remember that we are God's people, but we have often preferred our way instead of God's. Trusting God's power to make us new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept.

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

God has provided us with all that we need. It is our privilege to give back to God. Let us return a portion of what God has so freely given to us. Let us now humbly bring our gifts before God.

Offertory Hymn #559~*Lead us, Heavenly Father*

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.

Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us; thou didst feel its keenest woe;
yet unfeared, persevering, to thy passion thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

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.**

God of every harvest, we offer our lives and fruit of our labors to you that we may proclaim the life of Jesus Christ, the true gift to all. Amen.
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.

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

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

Post-communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, as you give us the body and blood of your Son, guide us with your Holy Spirit, that we may honor you not only with our lips but also in our lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our 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 #537~*Christ for the World we Sing*

Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring with one accord;
with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Worship Leader ~Janice Webber, L.E.M.
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