



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

Order of Worship

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Presider says

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 following is said, all standing

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A Reading from the book of Joshua.

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. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“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.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Deacon Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Deacon: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

People Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

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

Let us approach the Throne of Grace, there to pray for the Church,
the world, and one another.

Heavenly Father, we are sometimes foolish, not wise; scatterbrained,
not prudent; reactive, not responsive. Forgive our less commendable
words and deeds. Remind us of the wonderful honor and high
privilege of being called to your Son's wedding feast! Give us the
grace and wisdom of your Holy Spirit. Let us always rejoice; believe;
and show the light of faith, hope, and love even in this dark world.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Make your Church wise, faithful, pure, and watchful, rejoicing in the
near approach of her Bridegroom and Savior. Make her worship
joyful and pleasing in your sight. Make her labors glorify you and
help those in distress. Make her feasts a foretaste of your heavenly
wedding banquet, feeding all with truth, righteousness, and
salvation.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Make this congregation, and each of us, into lamps shining with your light and love. Do not let us grow weary in praising you and serving others. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit, so that we may constantly share your grace and favor with those whose lights are flickering out.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Let your justice roll down like waters upon this parched and broken world. Let your righteousness fill the hearts and minds of all who are entrusted with authority. Especially we pray for our elected and appointed leaders. Give them your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, so that they may bring concord, peace, prosperity, justice, and healing to our land.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

On this Veteran's Day weekend, we pray for all who have honorably served their country. Grant wisdom, courage, integrity, and sound judgment to everyone currently serving in the military, and to all who risk their lives on behalf of community and country. Use their skills to bring freedom, safety, and justice wherever they serve. Keep them safe; shield their loved ones from grief and fear; and grant them a swift and joyful homecoming.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Inform the minds, soften the hearts, and strengthen the wills of all who take counsel for the nations, especially our own. Teach them to use wisely and well the authority and power entrusted to them, so that all people may prosper and live in harmony with one another.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Let all who seek your help in their times of trial find deliverance from all that troubles them. We remember before you: {List}. Are there others?... Grant them health and salvation; justice and comfort; hope and guidance. When their lamp of faith seems ready to flicker and fade, rekindle them with the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. And give a double portion of that same Spirit to all who minister to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, we grieve for our dead, but not without hope. Thank you for receiving them into your merciful care. Renew our confidence in your goodness in this time of our earthly pilgrimage. Help us to encourage and help one another along the way. Lead us, by the Cross of Jesus, into the Kingdom which you have prepared for all who have been redeemed by his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy: *Hear our prayer.*

Hear our prayer; and graciously grant all that glorifies you and benefits our poor broken world, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Minister and 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 neighbors 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.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

Presider

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Concluding Prayers

Presider

Let us pray.

People and Presider

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Presider and People

Beloved Jesus,
We believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
We love you above all things,
and we desire to receive you into our souls.
Since we cannot at this moment receive you
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
come spiritually into our hearts.
We embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you.
Let us never be separated from you
in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

The Presider then adds a concluding Collect

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

Dismissal