

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH @ HOME



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 21
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

WELCOME!

Welcome in the Lord's name to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. No matter who you are and where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome! You bless us with your presence. We have been gathering for over 150 years as a community to worship God and demonstrate our faith in our daily lives. We are currently gathering online, each in our own space, yet praising God together. We are delighted you are joining us, and hope to see you at future parish events.

ABOUT THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

The season after Pentecost begins on the Monday following Pentecost and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. This includes Trinity Sunday which is the First Sunday after Pentecost. The BCP provides proper collects and readings for the other Sundays of the season. These propers are numbered and designated for use on the Sundays which are closest to specific days in the monthly calendar, whether before or after. This period is also understood by some as "ordinary time," a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance.

COVER ART

“Prophet Ezekiel” (1510 AD)

by Michelangelo (1475-1564)

This print is located in Vatican City, Rome, Italy.

The cover art is based on our First Reading today.

MORNING PRAYER: RITE II

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn In Procession

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise”

Hymn 423

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Opening Sentence

Officiant: The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 79

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: 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.**

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

The Invitatory

BCP, p.80

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Antiphon

All: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Psalm 100

BCP, p.82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalm Appointed

Ad te, Domine, levavi

Psalm 25:1-8

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Here ends the Reading.

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Here ends the Reading.

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Sermon

The Rev. Bryan Hinson

The Apostles' Creed

BCP, p.96

Officiant and People together

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p.97

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People together

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.

Suffrages (Versicle and Response)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of

your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God is a father to those who obey God's word and to those who ignore it. With great humility, then, and with great confidence, let us confide to God with the hopes and needs, the pains, and the labors of the whole world; saying: Lord, hear our prayer. For all in this world who do not know Christ as the faithful Son who did the will of his Father and revealed to us his Father's kindness, that God's love may be known among them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the churches of the world, that they might prove in their collective witness and action the obedience to God that they profess, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all peoples who claim God as their father: for our Jewish and Islamic brothers and sisters, that they may be at peace with us and rejoice with us to do their Father's will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For this country, that our unity might be strengthened by genuine commitment to God's will and by faithful obedience to God's word, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For traitors and prostitutes, for drug dealers and con artists, for all who live in the underworld of our nation or outside the pale of respectability, that they might continue to be the special object of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, that we might be delivered from all illusions of superiority, from all pretense of righteousness, from all arrogance and hardness of heart, and that we might know the meaning of compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who have died after a lifetime of service, especially for Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

God, you are a God of mercy, a God who does not deal with us according to our sins nor make your love contingent on our good behavior. Be merciful to your people everywhere, and hear our prayers for those who are in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

BCP, p.101

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP, p. 102

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make
our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-
beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you
will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as
may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in
the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"

Hymn 690

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer.
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Blessing

Sending Forth

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever, **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus
as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."*



CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rev. Bryan Hinson, *Priest-in-Charge*
The Rev. Dr. Gary Abbott, *Retired Priest-in-Residence*

STAFF

Nadine Cheek, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Dena Hobbs, *Campus Ministry*
Leah Lowndes, *Parish Administrator*
Akram Saymeh, *Bookkeeper*
Mary Patmon, *Custodian*

VESTRY MEMBERS

Class of 2020
Dustin Gilmore
Alex Mitchell
Tamika Sanders

Class of 2021
Charlie Bradshaw
Teri Kramer
Nancy Ogilvie

Class of 2022
Billie Abbott
Andrea Freeman
Sean McCrackin

Teri Kramer, *Treasurer* | Russell Lewis, *Interim Chancellor* | Tamika Sanders, *Clerk*

Thank you for joining us in worship.

SHORT TERM PRAYER LIST

Andrea, Anna, Becky, Bob, Brad, Bubber, Carol, Elizabeth, Ella, Estella, Eve, Frances, the Garner family, George, Geraldine, the Greene family, Harriette, Helen, Ishmael, James, Jamie, Jim, Julie, Kaleb, Kimberly, Madeline, Matthew, Martha, Melissa, Mike, Nadine, Nathaniel, Nichal, Pam, the Parker family, Phil, Ramsey, Robert, Roslyn, Roy, the Sanders family, Terri, Victor, Walter, Wesley, William, William

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Amy, Becky, Betty, Bess, Bob, Chris, Cynthia, Danny, Dawn, Debbie, Francis, Hill, Howard, Jay, Jerry, Jessica, Jill, Jim, Jonas, Julie, Karen, Kay, Kelly, Laverne, Mackenna, Marian, Mercer, Mike, Nicholas, Patrick, Rebecca, Red, Rhonda, Richard, Ruth, Shirley, Thom, Toni, Tony