

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 23, 2020

WELCOME BY GREETERS AND USHERS

RECTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Philippians 1:2

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence may be kept.

Priest 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.

Priest: 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.

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Priest: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Priest and People:

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. Alleluia.

THE VENITE

Led by Powell Hutton.

Psalm 95:1-7

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God:

People: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God:

People: Come let us adore him.

HYMN 688

A mighty fortress is our God

Sung by the Summer Choir.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -
fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark-ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin-dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederic Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46
Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
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THE READING

Romans 12:1-8

Read by Uche Onwuamaegbu.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We

have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 124

Read by Virginia Bader.

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord!
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *If I...*

Lori Laitman
(b. 1955)

Dena Goodman, soprano
Samantha Scheff, piano

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Read by Nancy and Frank Klotz.

Leader and People:

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 LORD'S PRAYER

Led by the Thesmar Family.

The people stand or kneel.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader and People:

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 SUFFRAGES

Read by Paul Barkett and Eric Peters.

Versicle: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Response: **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Versicle: Day by day we bless you;

Response: **We praise your Name for ever.**

Versicle: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Response: **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Versicle: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

Response: For we put our trust in you.

Versicle: Let your way be known upon earth;

Response: And we shall never hope in vain.

THE COLLECT FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Priest: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Lauren Edwards.

(adapted from prayers written by Brian McLaren.)

Leader: Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, “We thank you, living God.”

Leader: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For the communities of St. John’s and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for *St. Albans Church, Washington*, and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For *Donald*, our President, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country, that they may work for justice, freedom, and peace:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve:

People: We thank you, living God.

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play:

People: We thank you, living God.

* In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.

Leader: For challenges which call forth new strength, for failures which teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For those in special need today, especially those who are sick and who are shut-ins. For the people of the *Middle East, Latin America, and all affected by the coronavirus* and for your care for all those in need:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Hugh Agnew, Leslie Arriaga, Sarah Baker, Reed Barnes, Debra Fine, Michael Greal, Richard Greene, Lucy Herzog, Quinn Lyerly, Max Hudgins, Bayne Johnston, Suzanne McIntire, Thomas Nuzum, Marcella Odom, Gigi Rasmussen, Jason Rossbach, Ann Tierney, Thomas Traxler, and Alexander Wilkins*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Nancy and Frank Klotz, Susan and Sandy Sierck, Holly and John Sukenik, and Ella-May and Edwin U.*

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For our country and all who serve on behalf of our civic life:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For those who have died, especially *Steve Heidenberger* who died August 13 and *Judy Adams* who died August 17, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

Leader: And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend:

People: **We thank you, living God.**

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

Read by Holly Sukenik.

Leader: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Read by Geraldine Hayhurst.

Leader: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Read by Heather Hopkins.

Leader: 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.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING

Priest: Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: 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

VOLUNTARY *"Largo" and "Allegro" from Trio Sonata No. 2 in C minor, BWV 526* J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

USHER: Sylvia Estes and Robert Carroll.

GREETERS: Eleanor and Peter Odom and Leila Taaffe.