

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH



We extend a warm welcome to everyone, and especially any visitors who may be worshiping with us today. If you do not already have a church home, please feel welcome to join this Parish family.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcomed to the table to receive Holy Communion. PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES.

- PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK -

We pray for those who have asked our prayers: Abigail, Angie, Annette, Autumn, Betty, Caroline, Chris, Corey, Diane, Don, Donna, Doug, Elinor, Gary, Greg, Heidi, Jackie, Jean, Jill, Jim, Joel, Joy, June, Kamryn, Laura, Liz, Matthew, Melvin, Michelle, Muriel, Patricia, Roger, Rosalie, Sarah Grace, Scott, Sue, Thomas, Tom, Tyler, Vincent;

We pray for those who have died, and all those grieving the death of a loved one, that they may they find comfort and peace;

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Erik, John, Matt, Robert, and Stephen;

We pray for the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers;

We pray for our companion diocese of Torit in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, terrorism, war, gun violence, famine, tyranny, or injustice;



In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors; Zion Church, Douglaston; Province II-Diocese of Western New York; St. James', Elmhurst; Staff & Board of Managers of Episcopal Health Services; St. George's, Flushing; St. John's, Flushing;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer this week we pray for The Church of Nigeria; and these Dioceses of Churches of the Worldwide Anglican Communion: Iowa (USA); Iran (Jerusalem and the Middle East); Irele Ese-Odo, Isi Mbano, Isiala Ngwa, Isiala-Ngwa South, Nigeria.

— PARISH NOTICES —

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the ECW and the Parish Choir this morning to celebrate the ministry of Mark Engelhardt.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S "WELCOME BACK" MEETING TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER, 11:30 AM, IN THE LOUNGE. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch; tea/coffee and dessert will be provided. All ladies of the parish invited. For further information, please call Joan Derle. (631-499-8234).

BIBLE STUDY continues in the Lounge on Thursdays at 10:00 am. All are invited!

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO STAFF OUR THRIVING THRIFT STORE. WE ALSO NEED VOL-UNTEERS TO WEED THE GARDEN IN THE GARTH. Please speak with Brian if you are interested.

> The Flowers at the Altar today are given to the Glory of God, and in thanksgiving for the Ministry of Mark Engelhardt.



September 15, 2024 – Pentecost 17 (B) Explore the Way of Love: WORSHIP

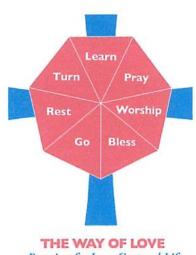
Throughout the Scriptures, the people of God are called to worship.

As the Psalmist writes, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name." Just as God wants to enter into our lives and meet us where we are, so God desires for us to enter into God's space together and be present there.

Worship is an important part of the Way of Love, the practice that followers of Jesus have traditionally followed. Worship brings us out of our own space to walk on sacred ground. Worship brings us out of our loneliness into communion with fellow worshippers, as we become one Body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship reminds us who we are, in light of the God who creates, saves, and sustains us.

In worship, we can bring all of our selves before God, as a kind of offering. We can bring our hopes, our dreams, our joys and sorrows, our thanks and our praise. We can boldly proclaim ourselves to be who we are, and give public voice to what we believe, without reservation.

By coming to the table together, we have the opportunity to break bread together, and in doing so, share a common experience to which all are welcome.



Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

Gathering together challenges us to leave our loneliness behind, and risk relationship with God and with those on our journey who also gather to seek God's presence. As we join in worship together, we are experiencing the presence and glory and beauty of showing up boldly before God and sharing in the communal life of the multitude of followers of Jesus who have gathered here before us.

And we are one body.

Are you ready to make a commitment to regularly gather to worship?

Learn more about the Way of Love at *episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove*. You can find suggestions on getting started and going deeper with Worshiping at *iam.ec/ewol*.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Word of God

Voluntary Chorale Prelude: Deck, thyself, my soul with gladness

Announcements

Hymn at the Procession

Glorious things of thee are spoken



4

The Hymnal 1982, #522

Austria

J. S. Bach



Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt. Music: Austria, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1807); desc. Michael Y. Young, (b. 1939). Descant Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

The Opening Acclamation

CelebrantBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

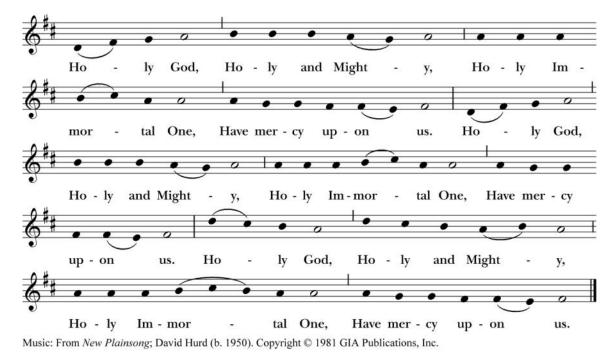
The Collect for Purity

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, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Hymnal 1982, S 100 David Hurd

The Song of Praise

Trisagion



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated for the Lessons.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Wisdom 7:26-8:1

Lector A reading from the Book of Wisdom

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.**PeopleThanks be to God.**



- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my suppli | cation, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called up | on him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took | hold of me; * I came to grief and | sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the | Lord: * "O Lord, I pray you, save my | life."
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and | righteous; * our God is full of com | passion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the | innocent; * I was brought very low, and he | helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my | soul, * for the Lord has treated you | well.
- For you have rescued my life from | death, *my eyes from tears, and my feet from | stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the | Lord * in the land of the | living.

The Epistle: James 3:1-12

Lector A reading from the Letter of James

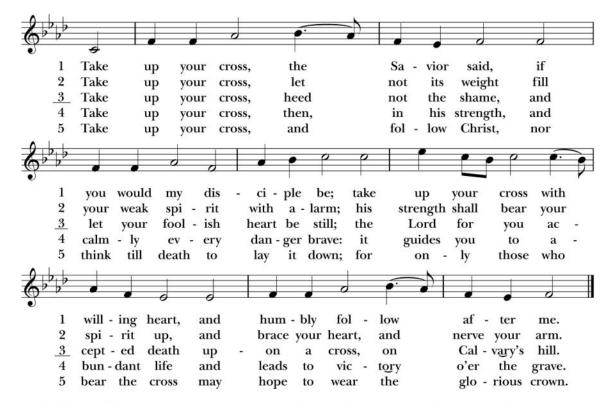
Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.**People**Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands for the Hymn at the Gospel Procession

The Hymn at the Gospel Procession

Take up your cross, the Savior said



Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Celebrant	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Doyle Dietz Allen

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.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant

With our tongues we bless the Lord and Father and beg for mercy on all in need.

Intercessor

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Lawrence, our bishop, for our parish clergy and lay leaders, for this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

Christ, have mercy.

For mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples. Christ, have mercy.

For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms. Christ, have mercy.

For those who are sick and suffering, remembering especially Abigail, Angie, Annette, Autumn, Betty, Caroline, Chris, Corey, Diane, Don, Donna, Doug, Elinor, Gary, Greg, Heidi, Jackie, Jean, Jill, Jim, Joel, Joy, June, Kamryn, Laura, Liz, Matthew, Melvin, Michelle, Muriel, Patricia, Roger, Rosalie, Sarah Grace, Scott, Sue, Thomas, Tom, Tyler, Vincent; for travelers by land, by water, and by air, for those in prison and their families, and all those in desperate need.

Christ, have mercy.

For our cities and communities and all those who live in them, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

Christ, have mercy.

For those who rest in Christ and for all those we love but see no longer.

Christ, have mercy.

For all other prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, which may be offered now, silently or aloud. *Silence*

The people may add their own prayers

Celebrant

God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers we offer this day and save our lives through the good news of your Messiah; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant

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 Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

The Birthday Prayer

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* where *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if he fall; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer for a Marriage Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Holy Communion

The congregation stands for the Hymn.

The Anthem at the Offering

Harold Friedell

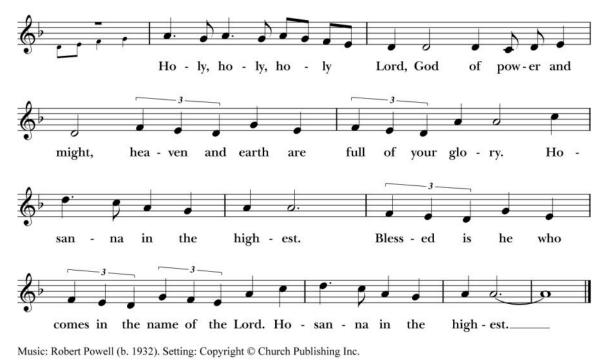
Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name, Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee, That by Caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be. Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully. — Harold Friedell

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.



— 11 —

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Peter, St. Edmund, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first born of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN*.

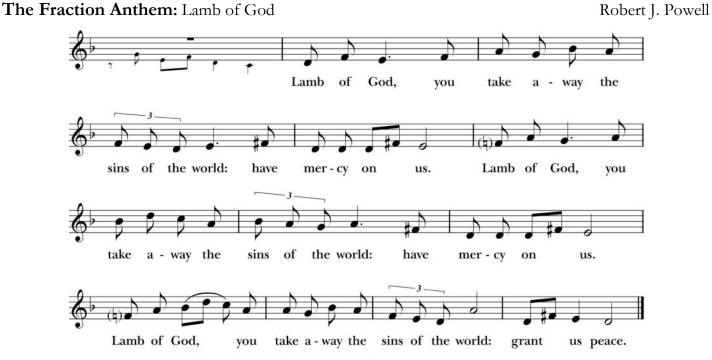
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

CelebrantAlleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;PeopleTherefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion.

The Hymn during Communion

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

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1	Let all mo -	rtal flesh	keep	si - lence,	and	with fear and
2	King of kings,	yet born	of	Ma - ry,	as	of old on
3	Rank on rank		of	hea - ven	spreads	s its van - guard
4	At his feet	the six -	winged	ser - aph;		- u - bim with
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		self for	heaven	- ly		ood.
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	Al - le -	lu - ia,	Lord	Most	н	igh!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

All say together

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation is seated. Those persons desiring Unction should move to the Lady Chapel.

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is

The Hymnal 1982, #645

St. Columba

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2 soul h <u>3</u> love h 4 Lord, h 5 grace h	th ne ne oe - th	nev lead sought side stow nev	-	er; eth, me, me; eth; er:	I and and thy and Good	noth where on rod oh, Shep	U	lack if ver - dant shoul - der staff my trans - port may I
1 I am 2 pas - ture 3 gent - ly 4 com - for 5 of de 6 sing thy	es grow, laid, t still, - light	and thy from	he food home, cross thy - in	is ce - re - be - pure thy	joic -	for tial ing, to ice for	ev feed brought guide flow ev	- er. - eth. me. - eth! - er.

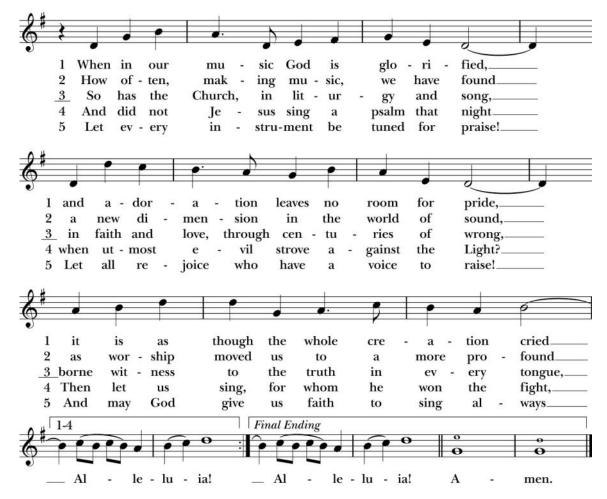
Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: St. Columba, Irish melody, harm. Hymnal 1982.

The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

The Hymn at the Procession

When in our music, God is glorified



Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). CopyrightCopyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Engelberg*, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

The Dismissal

CelebrantLet us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.PeopleThanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary Chorale Prelude: Now thank we all our God

Sigfried Karg-Elert

— For the Service —

Celebrant and Preacher - The Reverend Doyle Dietz Allen Lector - Sue Peverley Eucharistic Minister - Brian Clark Organist - Mark Engelhardt Ushers - Diane Arrigo, Vincent Marotta Altar Guild - Barbara Becker, Gail Farrell, Betsy Mayo, Stephanie Campbell

PENTECOST 17

Proper 19 - Year B

Psalm 116:1-8

- ¹ I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- ² The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; * I came to grief and sorrow.
- ³ Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: * "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- ⁴ Gracious is the Lord and righteous; * our God is full of compassion.
- ⁵ The Lord watches over the innocent; * I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- ⁶ Turn again to your rest, O my soul, * for the Lord has treated you well.
- ⁷ For you have rescued my life from death, * my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- ⁸ I will walk in the presence of the Lord * in the land of the living.

Commentary from Sermons That Work

This psalm is so reassuring. Just like the psalmist, we have this compassionate guardian who watches over us, even as the grave reaches out to ensnare us. While we must accept that we will be brought low in life – probably as often as anyone! – God has given us himself and each other to help us back on our feet. Thanks be to God that we can rest secure in this knowledge!

Discussion Questions

It can be hard to hear these praises and still see death and destruction around the world – and even closer to home. What do you think God would have you or your congregation do to confront death in all its forms?

James 3:1-12

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Commentary from Sermons That Work

James' imagery in this piece is stunning and comes alive to us. His lesson rests on our tongues – signifying our ability to communicate with others based on our thoughts and feelings. And those thoughts and feelings, as we all know, can take a number of forms. They can be kind and generous; they can be cold and rational; they can be brave and noble; they can be cruel and biting. We are blessed with the power to use our language to build great empires, to tame the wilderness, and to raise up the downtrodden – but we are cursed with the power, used too often, to break spirits, to mock and denigrate, and to destroy the very world.

Discussion Questions

Does James come off as too harsh in this reading?

Where have you seen carefulness with words build something great?

Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Commentary from Sermons That Work

Our readings once again show the power of language and teaching. Peter – who bumbles along like the rest of the disciples – gets things right; there is one answer above all for who Jesus Christ is: The Messiah. This Jesus, whose words are eternal life, whose teachings point us to the good life, whose way is narrow but open to *all*, this Jesus whose love encompasses those we despise – he is the Messiah. One of the greatest things we can undertake in this life is to confess this truth: he is not merely a good guy, a great teacher, a prophet, a desert philosopher, a victim of political and religious oppression – he *is* those things, of course – he is Lord of all.

Discussion Questions

Do you remember when you were first convinced that Jesus Christ is Lord?

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A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

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The Wardens and Vestry of the Parish

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Stephanie Campbell Laura McLaughlin Lisa Hallett Nancy Maia



Praising God, Serving Neighbor

We seek to worship the Lord as one loving family by serving our parish and community through prayer, music, education, and outreach.