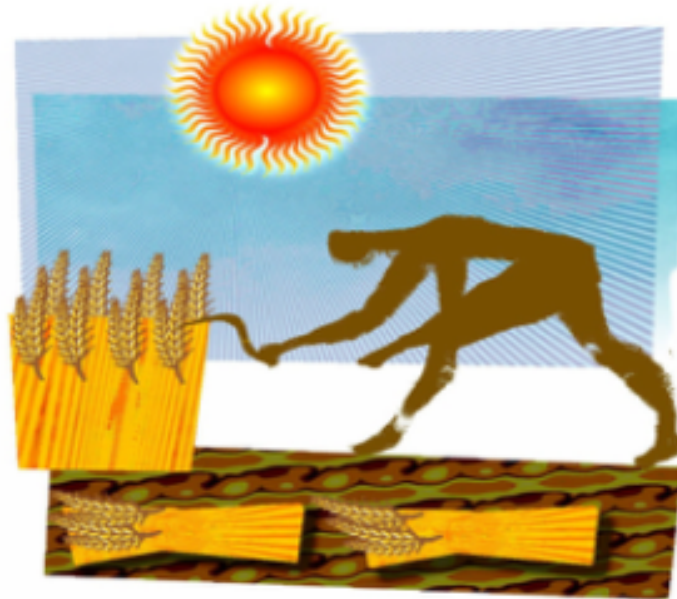




ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
In-Person & Zoom Worship
July 30, 2023 10:00 A.M.



St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rite of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and

Polynesia

As we gather for worship, let us recognize and acknowledge that our bodies walk, pray and live in the hills and valleys that have been and continue to be the traditional, ancestral and unceded homeland of the Abenaki people.

Prelude

The Gathering of the Community

All who are able stand to sing

Processional

Hymn 366,

vs. 1-4

The Celebrant says

Grace and peace to you from God.

People: **God fill you with truth and joy.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **The Lord bless you.**

Celebrant: This is the day which the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you and worthily praise your holy name; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All sing together

Gloria

S280

S 280

Canticle 20

Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The presiding priest says:

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we call to mind our sins. *Silence*

Let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God,
 we have sinned
 in what we have thought and said,
 in the wrong we have done
 and in the good we have not done.
 We have sinned in ignorance:
 we have sinned in weakness:
 we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
 We are truly sorry.
 We repent and turn to you.**

**Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution *is declared by the presiding priest.*

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness

and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day *(said by all, in unison)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

The Proclamation

All are seated for the reading of scripture. A short period of silence follows each reading.

Old Testament Lesson 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind: no one like you has been before you and no one

wise and discerning mind, no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

The Epistle Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God

**Gradual
& 2**

Hymn 596, vs. 1

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

People: **Praise and glory to God**

The Gospel Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: **Praise and glory to God.**

Gradual
vs. 3

Hymn 596,

Sermon
Ledyard

The Rev. Florence

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 substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made human.
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.
who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified.
who 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

*The people stand or kneel as is their custom or take a posture of prayer as
able. The presiding priest says*

note: the presiding priest says

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

The intercessor then leads ***The Prayers of the People***

We pray especially for: Peggy, Jeff, Bill, Cory, Eugene, Carolyn, Sarah, Lynne, Rae, Aaron, Matt, Geoffrey, Arthur, Anne, Stanley, Bobby, Trish, Eve, Bob, Eddie, Judy, Abra, Noa, Lillian, Hazel, Thomas, Matt, Mike, Chris, Beverly, Jill, Nancy, Louise, Cheryl, Olivia, Larry and Steven.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son.

Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa and the church throughout the world.

Father, enliven the Church for its mission

that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world:

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the community:

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need, especially

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ

we remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Father, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We praise you for John and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May their example inspire and encourage us.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries:

In the silence, particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith, and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The prayers conclude with the following:

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

All standing, the presiding priest says to the people

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The priest then continues:

Brothers and sisters, we are the body of Christ.

By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

Announcements

Prayer for Anniversaries & Birthdays:

Birthday this week: Ann Cammack

Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Preparation of the Gifts

The presiding priest says:

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty. **All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.**

The holy table is prepared. The presiding priest takes sufficient bread and wine brought forward by representatives of the congregation. The offerings of the people are presented.

Offertory

292

Hymn

**Doxology
380, vs. 3**

Hymn

The Great Thanksgiving

The presiding priest says:

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise

through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit. Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

Sanctus

S

128

The Holy Eucharist II

S 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do

this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As Christ teaches us, we pray:

**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 forever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread in silence and then says:

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

The Invitation

THE INVITATION

The priest invites the people saying:

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving and Sending Out

The presiding priest alone begins the prayer:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the precious body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your love and care in assuring us of your gift of eternal life and uniting us with the blessed company of all faithful people.

Therefore, ever living God, keep us steadfast in your holy fellowship. And now we offer ourselves, all that we have and are, to serve you faithfully in the world, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Dismissal of the Community

The presiding priest gives a blessing to the congregation. The congregation is sent out with these words:

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

All who are able sing together:

**Recessional
599**

Hymn

Postlude

The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.

Please join us for coffee hour in Persell Hall