



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:30 A.M. AND 9:30 A.M.

Gathering Music (*The gathering music at 9:30 a.m. will be sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen.*)

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Song of Praise (*9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

tune: *The Ash Grove*

The Collect of the Day

The Lessons

A reading from Ezekiel (18:1–4,25–32)

Commentary:

Ezekiel was a Judean priest as well as a prophet. During the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, he was taken as a captive to Babylon and ministered to the Jewish exiles living there. The purpose of Ezekiel's ministry was two-fold: to remind the people of the sins that had brought judgment and exile upon them, and to encourage them with prophecies of future restoration and glory. In this passage, the exiles were claiming to be innocent victims, condemned by what their ancestors had done. In spite of God's righteous dealing with people on the basis of their conduct, the Israelites were accusing Him of not doing right. God reminded His people that they were personally responsible for their conduct and would be judged accordingly. However, God's desire for His people, then and now, is repentance, not judgment.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15:1–9 (*9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

chant: John Sullivan

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians (2:1–13)

Commentary:

Paul viewed unity within the church as essential for its proper functioning as the body of Christ. Unity is easier to attain, and maintain, when members of the body elevate concern for the needs of others over self interest. To illustrate, Paul turned to the example of Jesus, pointing out that humble actions begin with a humble attitude. Jesus was willing to alter His status and behavior for the welfare of others and in this He is, for us, an example of submissiveness. God the Son submitted to the depths of humiliation, then God the Father raised Him to the height of exaltation. The lesson for the Philippians, and for us, is that submission to God and to one another for the glory of God, not for selfish glory, is the right motivation. We work out our salvation as we keep in step with the Holy Spirit, who leads us in the will of God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (21:23—32)

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Reverend Pierce Klemmt

The Nicene Creed

Officiant and People together

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

The response to each petition:

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

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Officiant 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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo: *"What wonderful love is this"* (9:30 a.m. only)

American Folk Hymn

Eucharistic Prayer A

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

Sanctus *(Celebrant and People)*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The celebrant invites the following prayer to be said by all:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Music *(9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Post-Communion Prayer *(Celebrant and People)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: *The Reverend Chris Hamby*

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

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