

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST 2022

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Kyrie eleison p. 324

The Collect of the Day

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot exist without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

NRSV, p. 1098

Commentary: Hebrews places great emphasis on the importance of living by faith. Faith is defined as having confidence that things yet future and unseen will happen as God has revealed they will; it is hope that looks forward with steadfast certainty. The writer encouraged his readers by reminding them of the faithful perseverance of a selection of Old Testament saints, including Abraham. Abraham demonstrated faith on many occasions and through various circumstances. When God called Abraham to leave his native land, when his home in the Promised Land was a tent, when he trusted God's promise of an heir, Abraham was living by faith. Abraham and the other patriarchs continued to live by faith to the very end and they died believing God would eventually fulfill His promises to them. Through the examples cited, the writer was urging his readers to keep on trusting and to not turn back.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

(continued overleaf)

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32–40

(NRSV) p. 951

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of James G. & Louise D. Cotchett.

St. James Parish

THE REVEREND PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR 25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

