



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Gloria

p. 324

The Collect of the Day

p. 178

O Lord, we beseech thee, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, for thou never failest to help and govern those whom thou hast set upon the sure foundation of thy loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever **Amen.**

The Lesson: Genesis 21:8–21

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 16

Commentary: Years before God announced to Abraham and Sarah that they would soon be parents of a son, the elderly couple had decided that the Lord's promise to give them descendants needed their help in order to be fulfilled. Sarah encouraged Abraham to sleep with her maidservant, Hagar, and the result of this union was a son, Ishmael (see Genesis 16). But now, after the miraculous birth of Isaac, all was not well in Abraham's household. Sarah perceived that Ishmael was a potential rival for Isaac's inheritance, and she was determined to remove the threat. Reassured by God, Abraham reluctantly sent Ishmael and his mother away. God provided for Ishmael and promised to make him a great nation, although it was through Isaac that God's covenant with Abraham would be fulfilled. Ishmael became the father of twelve sons and from Ishmael's sons came the Arab nations.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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Confession of Sin

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The Peace

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Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer I

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Sanctus

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The Lord’s Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers available upon request

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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The Blessing

The Dismissal

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Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
 Lu and Mary Oakley, Joe and Mary Peck.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

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