

# THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY 23 JULY 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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### The Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

The Holy Bible; NRSV, p. 24

Commentary: After Jacob schemed to obtain the birthright from Esau, he also plotted with his mother Rebekah to secure Isaac's blessing (see Genesis 27). Esau nursed a murderous grudge against Jacob, so Rebekah decided to send him to her brother's home in order to keep him safe. Stopping for the night along the way, Jacob had a vivid dream, he saw a ladder reaching to heaven, with God Himself at the top. From there, the Lord reaffirmed to Jacob the covenant promises given to Abraham and Isaac. Jacob set up the stone which he had used as a pillow to serve as a memorial of God's revelation, faithfulness and promise of protection.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24–30,36–43

*NRSV*, p. 891

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

| The Sermon                | The Reverend Cheryl Brainard |
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| The Nicene Creed          | p. 327                       |
| The Prayers of the People | p. 328                       |
| Confession of Sin         | p. 330                       |
| The Peace                 | p. 332                       |
| Welcome and Announcements |                              |

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

| Eucharistic Prayer II       |   | p. 340 |
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| Sanctus                     |   | p. 341 |
| The Lord's Prayer           |   | p. 336 |
| The Breaking of the Bread   |   | p. 337 |
| Prayer of Humble Access     |   | p. 337 |
| The Communion of the People | Gluten-free wafers available upon request | p. 338 |
| Prayer of Thanksgiving      |   | p. 339 |
| The Blessing                |   |        |
| The Dismissal               |   | p. 339 |



Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margueritte and Thomas Fish, Betty C. and J. Gordon Souther, and Janet Shields Souther.

# St. James Parish

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR