



# THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 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. 182

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson: Philippians 3:4b–14**

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1072

*Commentary: Paul spent many years as a proud Jewish man. His identity and self-worth had everything to do with his heritage and zealous loyalty to the Law of Moses, advantages he believed made him acceptable to God. However, Paul came to realize that his advantages were actually hindrances to his relationship with God because they strengthened his false hope of salvation, which comes not by ancestry or works, but by faith in Jesus Christ. A good family name, growing up in the church, these are certainly privileges, but they are not a ticket to heaven. Paul now understood that absolutely nothing apart from Jesus' work on the cross was of any value in gaining God's acceptance, that no status or good works improve standing before God. Now, Paul lived for the purpose of growing in his relationship with Christ so that Christ's power could be manifested in his life, to the glory of God.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,

**4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.**

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom  
out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**6 It goes forth from the  
uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**8 The statutes of the LORD are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the LORD is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from  
presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the  
meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

# The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33–46

NRSV, p.901

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

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

## The Nicene Creed

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
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	<i>Gluten-free wafers available upon request</i> p. 338
Prayer of Thanksgiving	p. 339
The Blessing	

### Closing Hymn 690

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"

*Cwm Rhondda*

1 Guide me, O thou great— Je - hov - ah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal—foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
 3 When I tread the verge— of— Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou— art—migh - ty; hold me with thy— power - ful hand;  
 let the fire and cloud - y— pil - lar lead me all my— jour - ney through;  
 death of death, and hell's— de - struc-tion, land me safe on— Ca - naan's side;

bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, shield, thee, feed be thou still my strength and shield. thee.  
 I will ev - er give to thee.

The Dismissal	p. 339
---------------	--------



*Celebrant: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard ~ Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

*Organist: John Sullivan*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
 Edward Manning Hardin, Lauriston Hardin Clarkson, Virginia Farmer Hardin and Julian Wright Clarkson*

# FROM THE RECTOR

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:18-20*

Dear St. James Parish Family,

What an amazing prayer by Paul - a true affirmation of the power that comes through God's grace and hope for each of us, individually, and also for the mission and ministry of St. James Parish.

When we gather together in worship, or in small groups, support our young people, or offer our time in service, we celebrate that Jesus changed everything and that God is now sending us, every single one of us, into the world to share and live out the good news. That's what we are about as followers of Christ.

This season we now embrace and honor the fellowship and good work that our mutual financial stewardship plants and supports. Your designated and personally meaningful pledge for 2024 allows us to prayerfully plan our programs and outreach for the year to come. Such endeavors require firm and dedicated budgets. With our campus, programs and outreach partners, a strong budget is crucial to our ministries both to our parish family and to our wider community.

I want to echo the words of our 2024 Stewardship Committee leaders and thank you for your strong and faithful investment in St. James Parish. The manner by which you specifically pledge your financial resource allows us to make a real difference in the lives of the people that we serve in Jesus' name. Just like Paul, we celebrate that there is a power at work within us, as God's people, to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

Blessings,

*Phillip*

The Rev. C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

[phillip@stjamesp.org](mailto:phillip@stjamesp.org)



## Stewardship 2024 is underway.

Here's a quick snapshot of where we stand. 53 pledges totalling \$310,084

### Thank you to those who have pledged so far!

#### FAMILY PARTICIPATION

53 families pledged so far!



GOAL: 350 Families | 15.1% Complete

William Baggett

Mark & Chelsey Bartholet

Michael & Erin Becker

Donald & The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

Henry & Linda Brown

Mike & Jamie Brown

Zachary Bugg & Scott Judson

Rosa Champney

Jack Clark & Mary Denison

Bram & Rachel Colonna

Ron & Wanda Copley

Web & Florence Ellen Cowden

LucyWest Craig

The Rev. Phillip & Jennifer Craig

Jim & Andrea Crumpton

David & Kay Dougherty

Doug & Bailey Echols

Mary Evans

Dennis Fish & Beth Souther

Tim & Pat Ford

John & Mary Ann Furniss

Shari Gardner

Dean & Mary Frere Gornto

Hunter & Michelle Gray

Tom & Hope Hackler

Frank & Berta Hamilton

Marilyn Harding

The Rev. Gray & Catie Hodsdon

Donald & Sue Jaeckel

David & Leslie Jarrett

David Joyner

Jim & Anne Lanier

Lloyd & Diane MacAskill

Al & Jane Marr

Timothy Marvin

Jane McGann

Tony & Kristine Montalto

Justin & Tammy Norwood

Cy & Grace Oberle

Greg & Ann Richardson

Jane Rippey

Turner & Sarah Schaeffer

Billy & Jean Smith

Lin & Mandy Spears

Ann Stuart

Allen & Erin Trask

William & Ansley Trask

Tom & Brandon Tully

Allen Van Dyke

Ed & Barbara Whitesides

Ginny Woodruff

Bob Workmon

Adair Wright

## ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ [admin@stjamesp.org](mailto:admin@stjamesp.org)



@stjamesp



@stjamesparish

[stjamesp.org](http://stjamesp.org)