



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 15 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. 183

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Exodus 32:1–14 The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 77

Commentary: Initially, the Israelites were terrified of the powerful manifestations of God's presence at Mt Sinai (see Exodus 20:18-19). Now, several weeks later, reverent fear had given way to restless impatience as the people wondered when, if ever, Moses would come back down the mountain. Israel's devotion to idols was honed in Egypt and without Moses' steadying influence, the people turned away from God to worship a golden calf. Israel's great sin led to a great test for Moses; God offered to wipe out Israel and make a new nation from Moses' descendants. Moses passed the test. He did not forsake the people but instead prayed that God would show them mercy. God's purposes do not change, but prayer is a means that God has ordained whereby people can partner with Him to accomplish His will in the world.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring

disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

read responsively by whole verse

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

**2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?**

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

**4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have
for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;**

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

**6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

**20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

**22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before
him in the breach, *

to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14

NRSV, p.902

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

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Cheryl E. Brainard

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

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Sanctus	p. 341
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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 376

"Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymn to Joy



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of Glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and— sad - ness; drive the—dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and—moun-tain, bloom - ing—mea-dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our— Bro - ther: all who— live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach— us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

The Dismissal

p. 339



*Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon ~ Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl E. Brainard
Guest Organist & Choir Director: Lisa Nichol*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
John C. & Margaret S. Bashford, Frederick W. & Martha I. Lewis.*

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

From a Vestry Member



Dear Parish Family,

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Al Marr and I am the vestry liaison to the stewardship committee. I have been a member of this parish for 24 years. For 21 of those years as I sat in the back of the church thinking if I ever had the honor to join the vestry, I hoped that I would not be put in charge of the stewardship committee. Well, here I am - dreams do come true.

I will try to keep this brief and maybe you will make it to the end.

There are many things that might motivate one to give back to the church. It may be the peaceful sanctuary, or that we have air conditioning in the summer, heat in the winter and lights that turn on. **This takes stewardship.**

For some it might be our vibrant clergy, who brings us a joyful message and service every Sunday and attends to the spiritual needs of our congregation. **This takes stewardship.**

For others it might be the youth programs or the Wednesday night covered dish suppers, the church picnics and chili cook off or the numerous outreach programs that the church provides for the community. **This takes stewardship.**

And yet for others, it may be a safe campus, where one is not fearful of plaster falling into your eggs, the roof leaking, or steps that are unsafe to use. **This takes stewardship.**

I could go on and on but you probably get the point

I imagine all of these things taken together are motivating factors to some degree. I ask each and every one of you to reflect on what might motivate you personally, whether it be from a place of spiritual calling, or a sense of duty and obligation.

So during this stewardship season and to paraphrase President Kennedy I say ask not what the church can do for you but what can you do for the church.

See, short and simple! Please pledge. You can go online, call the church, or even mail in a pew card.

- Al Marr

Stewardship 2024 is underway.

Here's a quick snapshot of where we stand. 87 pledges totaling \$445,764

Thank you to those who have pledged so far!

William Baggett
Mark & Chelsey Bartholet
Michael & Erin Becker
Bill & Laura Bivins
Donald & The Rev. Cheryl Brainard
Claude & Cissie Bridger
Henry & Linda Brown
Mike & Jamie Brown
David & Hannah Brownlow
Zachary Bugg & Scott Judson
Bill & Lynn Calder
Katherine Cammack
Dawn Carter
Rosa Champney
Jack Clark & Mary Denison
Steve & Louise Coggins
Bram & Rachel Colonna
Ron & Wanda Copley
Web & Florence Ellen Cowden
LucyWest Craig
The Rev. Phillip & Jennifer Craig
Jim & Andrea Crumpton
Ben & Suiter Currin

David & Kay Dougherty
Doug & Bailey Echols
Sandra Elam
Mary Evans
Joe & Ginger Helfrich
Dennis Fish & Beth Souther
Tim & Pat Ford
John & Mary Ann Furniss
Shari Gardner
Dean & Mary Frere Gornto
Hunter & Michelle Gray
Wilson & Pat Greene
Tom & Hope Hackler
Ann Hale
Frank & Berta Hamilton
Marilyn Harding
Eric & Lizzie Hartman
Rev. Gray & Catie Hodsdon
Tolly & Jean Hughes
Wayne & Carolyn Jackson
Donald & Sue Jaeckel
David & Leslie Jarrett
Linda Jobe
David Joyner

Jim & Anne Lanier
Lloyd & Diane MacAskill
Al & Jane Marr
Timothy Marvin
William Mason
Betsy McDonald
Jane McGann
Herb & Gina McKim
Tony & Kristine Montalto
Steve & Ann Mueller
Alex & Anne Murchison
Justin & Tammy Norwood
Cy & Grace Oberle
Fred & Sheila Osann
Ann Parker
Spencer & Claire Parker
Bennett & Pam Potter
Greg & Ann Richardson
Jane Rippy
Turner & Sarah Schaeffer
Greg & Marilyn Schimizzi
Beatrice Schomp
Billy & Jean Smith
Cookie Smith

TRACKING PARTICIPATION
87 households pledged so far!



GOAL: 350 Households | 24.9% Complete

Lin & Mandy Spears
Ann Stuart
Jack & Barbara Swann
Bill & Mary Beth Tallman
Ryal & Kimbrough Tayloe
Allen & Erin Trask
William & Ansley Trask
Tom & Brandon Tully
Bob & Nancy Uzzell
Allen Van Dyke
Ed & Barbara Whitesides
Ford & Anne Williams
Ginny Woodruff
Bob Workmon
Adair Wright
Chris & Kitty Yerkes

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