



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional 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 WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

p. 355

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

Glo - ry to you, Lord God of our fa - thers; —
 — you are wor - thy of praise; glo - ry to you. Glo - ry to
 you for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. Glo - ry to you
 — in the splen - dor of your tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
 you. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed be - tween the Cher - u -
 bim; we will praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
 Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the depths; in the
 high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to you. Glo - ry to you,
 — Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

The Collect of the Day

p. 234

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

The Epistle: Philippians 4:1–9

The Holy Bible; NRSV, p. 1073

Commentary: In the final chapter of Philippians, Paul exhorted his readers to stand firm in the Lord. Standing firm involves living in peace with one another, rejoicing at all times and remembering to seek out the good. There was discord within the Philippian church and its members needed to reestablish harmonious relationships. Uniformity in the church is not the goal, but unity is. Paul urged his readers to focus on the blessings they had in Christ and to be grateful for them. Finally, Paul advised replacing anxiety with prayer. Peace in the heart follows heartfelt prayer to God.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

After the reading, the children leave for Children's Chapel.

Sequence Hymn 288

"Praise to God, immortal praise"

Dix

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14

NRSV, p.902

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Cheryl E. Brainard

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

Celebrant and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The response to each petition:

...Remember us with favor, O Lord;

Visit us with your saving help.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

“Come, my way, my truth, my light”

Eugene Butler

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

~ George Herbert

Presentation Hymn

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: S125

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues, saying in the midst of the prayer:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues, concluding with:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S152

Cantor Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



People There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 316

“This is the hour of banquet and of song”

Canticum refectionis

Hymn 649

“O Jesus, joy of loving hearts”

Dickinson College

Hymn 684

“O for a closer walk with God”

Caithness

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members
of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 569

“God the Omnipotent!”

Russia

The Dismissal

p. 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

❖ ❖ ❖
*Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon ~ Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl E. Brainard
Children's Chapel: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr. ~ 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*

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

FAITH FORMATION HOUR

- DISCIPLES' CLASS: “Fruit of the Spirit, Part II” - the Rev. Robert Bayley- *Lippitt Room or Zoom*
- FAITH DISCUSSIONS: “Walking With Jesus Through the Clutter” - *Stephen Ministry Room*
- JUBI-LATTE ROUND TABLE: *Youth Room*
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 3 Yrs.-5th GRADES: *2nd Floor Milton Hall*

LATER TODAY

- HOSIPITALITY AT HOME: 4:00 PM
Hosted by the Ellison & Cullen Clark - RSVP
- IGNITE: CORN MAZE! 4:30 PM
Meet in Perry Hall Parking lot - Registration Recommended

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., OCTOBER 16-20

- MORNING PRAYER
8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

- LIVING WELL IN MIDST OF GRIEF
5:00 PM | Graham Parlor or Zoom
- FELLOWSHIP AA
7:00 PM | The Great Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
9:00 AM | Register for Location
- MEN ON A MISSION: SERVING AT
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
4:30 - 7:00 PM | Good Shepherd Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY CLASS
9:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room
- HEBREWS FOR EVERYONE
11:00 AM | Graham Parlor or Zoom
- HOLY EUCHARIST
12:10 PM | St. James Parish

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
6:30 PM | Register for Location
- CHOIR PRACTICE
7:00 PM | CHOIR ROOM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

- NO EVENTS PLANNED

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

- SERVING OUR NEIGHBOR: ST. MARY'S
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | St. Mary's in Burgaw

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST
8:30 AM | Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION | SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:10 AM | St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Online
- MEN ON A MISSION: OCTOBERFEST
3:00 PM | Figure Eight Island - RSVP
- IGNITE! YOUTH GATHERING
5:00 PM | Bishop Wright Room

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

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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