



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Exton. PA  
September 27, 2020**

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Prelude**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

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.

And now let us say in unison:

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Lord be with you.*  
**People:** ***And also with you.***  
*Let us pray.*

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*In our Hebrew Bible story the people are at the point of rebellion because they are without water in the wilderness. Moses decries their readiness to challenge the Lord through their lack of trust, and he asks God what is to be done. The Lord instructs Moses to strike a rock with his staff so that water will pour from it. This place he named Massah (meaning Challenge) and Meribah (meaning Dispute).*

**First Reading:** A reading from Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Give us ears to hear God's word. Amen.**

### **PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16**

**Refrain: God gave them drink as from the great deep.**

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
    incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
    I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,  
    and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
    we will not hide from their children.

- 4 We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers

**Refrain: God gave them drink as from the great deep.**

*In this reading Paul bids the new disciples to be of one mind in love, knowing how Christ Jesus accepted the condition of a servant and was obedient to the point of death. We now confess him as Lord and are called to an obedient working out of our faith. Central to this passage is a poem which may have been adapted from the hopes for a savior of a people who did not yet know Jesus. He has fulfilled humanity's dream of one who will share fully in the mortal condition. Now the Lord is known personally – Jesus. His followers must work out their salvation while discovering that God is active in them for his loving purpose.*

**SECOND READING:** A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Give us ears to hear God's word. Amen.**

**THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32**

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

People           **Glory to you Lord Christ**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People:           **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON** The Rev. Maxine Dornemann

**NICENE CREED:**

**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**

Our God is a father to those who obey God's word and those who ignore it. With great humility and with great confidence, let us confide to God the hopes and needs, the pains and the challenges of the whole world, saying: Let us pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer.

You have called the members of the Church to live in a manner that bears witness to the obedience to God that they profess. Strengthen those in leadership that their actions might be consistent with God's will, especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishops Daniel and Rodney, all Priests and Deacons, and our Lay Ministers, especially those who serve our young people in our Diocesan Episcopal schools: Episcopal Academy, St. James School, and Church Farm School. Be present to our companion Diocese of Guatemala and St. James Episcopal Church at the Cathedral in Guatemala City, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Inspire our leaders and all who hold authority in the world to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but to serve humanity with humility and grace. As we prepare to elect leaders to lead our states and our nation into a future that is marked by a spirit of working together for the good of all our citizens, give us wisdom and make us bold to choose those persons who will work for the common good. Fill the world with your Spirit, that all people may serve one another with humble faithfulness. Let us pray to the Lord

**Lord, hear our prayer**

Kind and Gentle Lord, you uphold the little ones, the weak and the vulnerable. Help us to raise up our children to rest in the safety of your love and to know how much they are valued in this community of St. Paul's. Today's altar flowers are given by the children and grandchildren of Luther and Sandi Detweiler in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Make our joy complete by bringing your healing love to all for whom we pray, especially those on our prayer list: Amber Leiss, Nancy and Bill Pollock, Morgan West, Veronica Grosch, Alex, Dolores Berridge, Peter Liebert, Olivia, Paul Getman, Miriam Flynn, Debbie Markowitz, Pat Ashton, Katelijn Pot, Mo Tate and her family. We also lift up to you our friends: Tom Shea, Alla Osypenko, Teresa Andersen, Tracey Coyle, Chris Lance, Billie, Pastor Ebot Jumo, Debbi J., Dylan S., Patricia Patton, Judy Walters, Alexandra Detweiler, Charles Johnson, Stephanie Reed, Craig Iannetti, Dustin, Jerry Clampett, Joseph Paul and family, Elizabeth and Rosemary. I invite your own petitions at this time, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord: Hear our prayers for those who have followed our savior Jesus through death into exaltation and now feast at your heavenly banquet.

Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God, you are a God of mercy, a God who does not deal with us according to our sins nor make your love contingent on our good behavior. Be merciful to your people everywhere, and hear our prayers for those who are in need. Be at work in us that we may do your will on earth with joyful and obedient hearts, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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:** In the name of our crucified and risen Lord; The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

### **Offertory Music**

### **Doxology – Presentation of Gifts**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
*Glory to you for ever and ever.*

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*By your will they were created and have their being.*

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*By his blood, he reconciled us.*

*By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn

### *Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### *The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
*We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

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

**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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Almighty and ever living 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.**

**BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE**

## **Serving at the Liturgy**

**Officiant** - The Rev. Maxine Dornemann

**Organist** - Kedron Miller

**Acolytes** - Scarlett Newton & Brody Levinson

**Lectors** - Josh Thiboldeaux and Kristi Wright

**Altar Guild** - Nancy Pollock

**Flower Guild** - Nancy Pollock and Gail Yard

**Bread Baker** – Peggy LaGarde