



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Exton. PA
October 11, 2020**

THE NINETEENTH 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.

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

In our story from the Hebrew Bible the people worship an idol, but Moses' prayer saves them from the Lord's punishment. In one way or another this pattern is repeated throughout Israel's history. The people have just made a solemn covenant with God, but quickly they lose faith and want to put their trust in some more tangible and useful religion. In this case the object of their worship is a bull-calf, a divinity among the Canaanites and a symbol of strength and virility. Moses intercedes against God's wrath and reminds the Lord of the past help and commitment to the people.

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 32:1-14

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23

Refrain: Declare the mighty acts of God our Savior.

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.

Refrain: Declare the mighty acts of God our Savior.

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul invites the new disciples to exult in joy in the Lord who is near at hand, and he thanks them for their most recent gift. They need have no anxiety because God's peace, which is beyond human understanding, will keep their hearts and thoughts in Jesus. They should fill their minds with all that is noble and loving, putting these things into practice as Paul has taught them to.

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (4:1-9)

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

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**

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

Gracious God, we are invited to the wedding banquet which the Father is preparing for the Son's marriage to the church. Hear our intercessions on behalf of all creation, as we say: Give thanks for God is good; Lord, hear our prayer

Holy Lord, look generously upon your church that her gentleness may be known to everyone, and make us worthy to receive with gladness the invitation to your heavenly feast. Give your peace to the leaders of your church, especially to our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishops Daniel and Rodney, all Priests, Deacons and Lay Ministers, especially those who serve on the Commission on Ministry. Guide the work being done in our companion Diocese of Guatemala and the Church of St. John the Baptist in Guatemala City. Give thanks for God is good;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Infinite God, send your grace to our leaders and to all in power that they may think upon whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent and praiseworthy, and thus know your peace. Give thanks for God is good;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, be present in your gracious and saving power among all who live with violence and conflict. Bring your peace and reconciliation that all humanity may feast together as welcome guests of your banquet recognizing that God bids that the banquet hall be filled with rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick, and those who are prominent as well as the unknown. Give us wisdom as we move ever closer to election day that the results of the election be decided in a timely manner and without dissension. Give thanks for God is good;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, bless this community of St. Paul's and clothe us in your divine likeness, that we may be the conduits of your love and grace and invite all who long for a closer relationship with you to the banquet feast. Give thanks for God is good;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord, remember with your favor all who suffer, and visit them with your saving help, especially those on our prayer list: Nancy Pollock, Morgan West, Jesse Boyd, Veronica Grosch, Alex, Dolores Berridge, Peter Liebert, Olivia, Paul Getman, Miriam Flynn, Bill Pollock, Debbie Markowitz, Pat Ashton, Katelijjn Pot, Mo Tate and her family. We also lift up to you our friends: Amber Leiss, 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. Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Stephen Presto, Elaine's Blackburn's father, who entered the gates of larger life last year, and whose birthday we would be celebrating this week. I invite your own petitions at this time,

either silently or aloud. Clothe with their heavenly garments all who have died and entered into your wedding feast. Give thanks for God is good;

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy and Loving One, fill our hearts with gratefulness, that we may rejoice in the Lord always, and again to rejoice in your Spirit; that the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, may guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. **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

 The Lord be with you.
People **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 pray:

**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

Lector - Kathryn West

Altar Guild – Gail Yard

Flower Guild – Sarah Freed

Bread Baker – Luann McIlvanie