



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Exton. PA
October 4, 2020**

THE EIGHTEENTH 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

In our first reading Moses gives the people the ten commandments that God spoke to him on Mount Sinai. These precepts are at the heart of Israel's law or Torah, and form the basis of the covenant with God established through Moses. The first four commandments prescribe Israel's relationship with God. Those which follow require fundamental responsibilities in human relationships.

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

PSALM 19

Refrain: The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart.

- 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.

Refrain: The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart.

Paul reminds the new Christians at Philippi that if any have reason to brag because of heritage, lineage, or zeal, it is he. Yet all human achievements are to be counted as rubbish next to the joy and privilege of knowing God in Christ. Paul does not consider himself complete, but presses forward to learn yet more of the grace of Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the sharing in his sufferings. His goal remains ahead: God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3:4b-14

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-46

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ**

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 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

The Christian church is the vineyard of the Lord, with all its needs and problems: growing the grapes, making the wine, managing the Lord's work. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying: Lord, hear our prayer. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have made us your own through Christ Jesus and given us a righteousness based on faith: Nourish your Church that we may be people who produce the fruits of your kingdom. Guide the leaders of your Church, especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Diocesan Bishops Daniel and Rodney, all Priests and Deacons, and all Lay Ministers, especially those who serve on our Convention Resolutions Committee. Bless the leaders of our companion Diocese of Guatemala and the Church of St. Joseph of the Exodus in Guatemala City. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Nurture our nation that our confidence may not be in the flesh or in our own powers, but in the righteousness from God that is based on faith. Give us the strength to see that even in tragedy – whether natural disaster or acts of violence – you are always there to lead back from despair. Guide us

through this time of turmoil as we ask your help is coming through this election period unified and ready to support the persons elected duly elected. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying:

Lord, hear our prayer.

May the St. Paul's family be the vineyard of the Lord - growing the grapes, making the wine, managing the Lord's work – in such a way that healthy branches extend throughout our community, sheltering the peoples with Christ's gentleness and loving-kindness. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, as we come to you offering intercession for those for whom we pray, especially those on our prayer list: Nancy and Bill Pollock, Morgan West, Jesse Boyd, 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: 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, Craig Iannetti, Dustin, Jerry Clampett, Joseph Paul and family, Elizabeth and Rosemary. I invite your own petitions at this time, either silently or aloud. Hear our prayers for those who have followed our savior Jesus through death into exaltation and now feast at your heavenly banquet. Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Patricia Longua, beloved wife, mother and Patriarch of the Longua family. Let us pray to the Lord of the vineyard, saying:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of the harvest, 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. We pray that our global Christian community may fulfill your Son's prayer and that we may soon be one in the name of Christ as he is in you, his Father, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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

	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 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

Altar Guild – Gail Yard

Flower Guild – Susie Banet and Gail Yard

Bread Baker – Nancy Vogt

