

Holy Eucharist



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

10:00 AM

GATHERING TOGETHER, SHARING OUR WORSHIP BEYOND

Welcome to St. James Church! It's been nearly six months since we've been able to gather together under one roof to pray, be inspired by scripture and share the Eucharist. Several of our practices have been updated to protect you and the wellbeing of every other person here. Our protocols are guided by the best science we can find, combined with continuing caution when what is currently known is not yet definitive. Thank you for doing your part by following each of the protocols below that apply to your own participation:

- *All surfaces that may be touched by more than one person have been disinfected prior to the beginning of this service.*
- *All present over the age of two need to wear a covering over their nose and mouth throughout the service. We are not doing this as a matter of personal choice to protect ourselves, but as a shared covenant to protect our friends and neighbors.*
- *All seating is currently pre-spaced at least six feet apart. Please leave the chairs in the places you find them or ask an usher if you want to move chairs to sit together as a family.*
- *This worship guide is available to print at home or to download to your personal device at www.stjamesns.com if you prefer one of those options to receiving a paper copy from an usher.*
- *When you arrive you will be asked to write your name and contact number on our record of attendance. This is being done so that someone can contact you promptly if we learn that anyone in attendance has tested positive for COVID-19.*
- *While we are together please refrain from physical touch with others. This includes greeting one another, passing of the peace, and receiving communion.*
- *Communion will be shared in the form of the bread only. A single portion of wine will be consecrated in order to maintain the integrity of the Eucharistic Prayer and then consumed by the priest, but it cannot be shared throughout the congregation at this time. Communion bread will be brought to each person wishing to receive at their seats to reduce our movement.*

Thank you for your flexibility and accommodation so that we can come together again. We remember that our Lord Christ voluntarily endured many hardships for the love of humanity and we honor Him today through our presence at this Eucharist celebration.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude

“Prelude in D Major”

J.S. Bach

Processional Hymn #390 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe den Herren

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

People: **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

The Gloria

**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 Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn #397 "Now thank we all our God"

Nun danket alle Gott

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Garrett Mettler

The 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.

The Prayers of the People

You are invited to add your own prayers silently or aloud as we pray.

Celebrant: God of love, God of justice, we trust your love to continue to bring healing in our wounded world. You call us into community to care for one another, and to know the breadth and depth of your love for all whom you created. Draw near to us as we pray for all your people throughout the world.

Leader: For all affected by the coronavirus around the world, and for the leaders of the nations, that they may work together to protect and serve for as long as it takes to outlast this outbreak. We pray especially for our President Donald, our Governor Andrew, and the local leaders of our own communities.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to police brutality and racism everywhere and in its many forms. Sustain those who cry out for justice, peace, and equality, especially when the inflammation of violent acts fades from the headlines. Show us ways to dismantle systems that target some people for abusive treatment and replace those systems with liberty and justice for all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Remember our sick and downcast, Lord Christ, and give them hope in their troubles. We especially remember Sue, Brian, Barbara, James, Elaine, Vincent, Bob, Joan, Kate, Ashley, Anna, Jon, Nada, Joseph, Terri, Chuck, Robert, Ariana, Susie, Dorothy, Esther, Sander, Lansing, Shelly, John, Jack, John, Sara, Hannah, Sunny, Kevin, Bennett and Family, Family of Jeff, Lois and Family, and the Family of Mary Jane. As you walked the way of the cross to the great day of vindication, so may they also know you to be strength for them in times of need.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for technology that can connect people in this time when we are not all gathered together.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We are thankful for all who, through professional responsibility and personal choice, come to the aid of help others, especially at great personal risk.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us, and ask that you watch over us in the ways we are not so blessed.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We are thankful for the healing, inspirational power of music to lift our spirits and to foster unity.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this world as a whole, that we might work together to create a brighter future for us and for future generations.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken.

Amen.

The Confession

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Peace

Announcements

Offertory Anthem “Down to the River to Pray”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

Priest and People say together

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 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 Fraction

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

The Body of Christ given for the People of God. Receive it in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn #324 “Let all mortal flesh keep silence”

Picardy

The Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Processional #475 “God himself is with us”

Tysk

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go now into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit; alleluia, alleluia!

***People:* Thanks be to God; alleluia, alleluia!**



Service Participants

CELEBRANT:

Rev. Garrett M. Mettler

DEACON:

Rev. Ken Citarella

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Michael Mulder