

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8-9 August 2020

The SERVICE of EVENING and MORNING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING SENTENCE

Stand *Officiant* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

Officiant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Most merciful God,

All: **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 offers Absolution.

Officiant: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

All: **serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise;*

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Sit PSALTER **Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22** *read responsively observing the verse*

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.**

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

**6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

16 Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.

**17 He sent a man before them, *
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

18 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.

**19 Until his prediction came to pass, *
the word of the Lord tested him.**

20 The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

**21 He set him as a master over his household,
as a ruler over all his possessions,**

22 To instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CANTICLE

Benedictus es, Domine

BCP p.90

Officiant: Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;

All: **you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 37: 1-4, 18-28

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers...; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"-- that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat.

Looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Here ends the Reading.

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Here ends the Reading.

Stand The APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant: I believe in God,

All: **the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, ☩ and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MEDITATION

The PRAYERS

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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 SUFFRAGES - A

BCP p. 97-98

Verse. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
Response. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Three Collects follow:

(of the Day, for Guidance, for Mission)

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS & THANKSGIVINGS - Form II

BCP p. 386

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; for all ministers and people; for this parish family and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor; for those suffering from financial anxiety and fear for their livelihood; the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitch; for the sick, the infirm and the elderly, especially Addison, Rob, Russ and Libby; for those suffering through forest fires and hurricane destruction, and for those who were killed or injured in Beirut this week.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for teachers and school administrators.
Pray that they may find creative new ways for educating our children and youth.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Corvetta; for those killed by violent acts and those who succumbed to the coronavirus.

Pray for those who have died.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. And what we have asked faithfully, may we receive effectually to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION - The Administration of the Sacrament went well last weekend. Everyone who received offered their thanks, and their approval of how we had prepared and shared the elements with safe protocols. We will again offer Communion the first weekend in September, and will then review our policy to possibly offer the Sacrament in a similar way each week. All this is with Bishop Nichols' protocols for those parishes in our Diocese who feel safe in administering the Sacrament.

PRIVATE COMMUNION - Nonetheless, it is still possible for Communion to be brought to individuals and families in their home, while observing the protocols. We invite you to contact Fr. Erb to arrange a convenient time for him to visit. (570) 241-2685 or rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org

BIBLE STUDY - We continue to offer a "Zooming Experience" through the Bible (though we promise not to 'zoom' too fast!) Join us Tuesdays at noon as we continue to read through and discuss Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) including the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. We are using the new book by Amy-Jill Levine as a source. Copies of the book are available at Abingdonpress.com for about \$15.

NEW STOVES - have arrived for the Parish Hall kitchen! 2 new restaurant-grade stoves and ovens were purchased through Thanksgiving Together community dinners program. These stoves are much more efficient and will save the parish in gas usage, particularly. They are also safer as the old ones had warm/hot heavy metal plates on top.

GRACE CHURCH
Proper 14-A (RCL-track One)

Honesdale, PA
8-9 August 2020

+ 2 +

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-36
Psalm 105: 1-6 (7-15) 16-22
[Romans 10: 5-15]
Matthew 14: 22-33

PERSEVERANCE

+ + +

You may have heard the story about a man who gets too close to the edge of the Grand Canyon, loses his balance, and slips over the edge. Just before falling 1000 feet, he grabs on to a root sticking out from the edge. “Help me!” he hollers. “Is there anyone up there? Help! Save me! Is there anyone up there?”

A voice answers, “I am God. I can save you. Do you believe in me?”

“O, yes, Lord, I believe in you, more than you'll ever know. Please help me.”

“OK,” God says. “I'll save you. Let go.”

“What?!”

“Just let go and I'll save you. You have to trust me.”

The man pauses a moment, and then shouts out, “Is there anyone else up there?!”

The Psalmist writes,

“God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in times of trouble.”

Psalm 46

and the favorite old hymn:

“O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.” #680

And yet we remain those “of little faith.”

Matthew uses that phrase of his disciples, “of little faith,” six times.

Luke quotes it once; Mark and John never has it upon Jesus' lips.

Yet in Luke's telling of the Gospel, four times Jesus says,

not to a disciple, but to an outsider,

“Go, your faith has made you well.”

So what is it about Matthew and faith in the midst of storm and trials?

The school of Matthew is writing down the Gospel

to a very young and tenuous Christian community,

struggling in the face of persecution and death

on the storms of the Roman authorities.

“You can cross the troubled seas,” Matthew says,

“if you keep your eyes on me, and not the storm.”

The message is to Peter, the early Church, and to us, even now.

Paula Franck, a Celtic Spiritual Director and retreat leader, notes that,

“As long as Peter’s attention is focused on Jesus, he is able to walk across the waves.

But as soon as he shifts his attention from Jesus to the storm, he becomes frightened. Caught between faith and doubt, Peter begins to sink.” *from Synthesis, August 2017*

She continues,

“Jesus, in his rescue of Peter, teaches us that he also reaches out to us in our times of need, and his presence brings us peace and assurance in the midst of the stormy chaos of our lives.”

There are others in the story who ride along the waves, with Peter, pulling and straining against the storm.

Mo. Amy Richter would suggest that we look around us.

This very building in which Grace Church worships is designed as an upturned ship:

the barrel ceiling made of crossed wooden planks,

is called the Nave, where the people of faith and doubt sit

“Nave” - as in navy, or naval - a ship.

Four of the early disciples, including Peter, after all, were fisherman, used to the storms on that same Sea of Galilee.

Others, like Matthew, not so familiar with riding the storm’s waves.

They pull and strain against the oars,

while the others bail the water from the depths of the hull.

A struggle of fear, and doubt,

growing together as a community of faith -

young faith, uncertain faith,

doubting faith in themselves and in their Master.

Yet Jesus has ordered them all onto the sea,

“Go forth together -

sail on the waves and wind and rain,

fight and pull and row against the storm.”

Years ago, Sue, the boys and I were at St. John the Divine in New York

when a Buddhist preacher entered the pulpit on that Sunday morn.

[I wish I remembered his name.]

His message was:

“No matter what the faith or background or practice, we’re all in the same boat.”

A message we hear often, and see on TV, social media, and billboards:

We’ll get through this - *and all things* - together.

+ 5 +

At the end of Main Street Honesdale - have you seen?

One corner has a billboard that reads,

“We will get through this together.”

On the next field is the sign, “In God we Trust.”

What a message for us right here:

First of all, we will get through this storm,

as if it says,

only is we do it together.

And right afterwards as we sit at the red-light, we reflect that,

almost is if only because “In God we Trust.”

We keep going - together - with God at our side.

Allow me to go off on a bit of a tangent.

The theme of “Perseverance.”

Alex Mather is a 13-year old NASA engineer. Or so he hopes.

Last year he won the competition to name the new Mars Rover -

which launched this week - the "Perseverance."

In his winning essay Alex described his reason for the name

“As Americans we've always dealt with disappointments
and problems.

And yet we keep going. We persevere.”

+ 6 +

Perseverance.

Would that have helped Peter?

Will that help us in these days?

Is perseverance another name for Faith?

Perhaps it is youth like Alex who give us hope

for pulling the oars together and facing the storm

in order to land on safe harbors.

We must work together for only in the sharing can we be saved.

And in that Community, Jesus comes

across the waves and in the midst of the storm.

And we kneel together in praise and thanksgiving, for

“Truly here is the Son of God!”

Let us pray:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of
which we cannot see the endings, by paths as yet
untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out
with good courage, Not knowing where we go, But only
that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 317