

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

15-16 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: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

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: Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

All: **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Sit PSALTER **Psalm 133** *read responsively observing the verse*

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *

when kindred live together in unity!

**2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,**

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *

and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

**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.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 45: 4-11, 13-15

Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more

years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there-- since there are five more years of famine to come-- so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE

The First Song of Isaiah

BCP p.86

Officiant: Surely it is God who saves me;

All: **I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 - B

BCP p. 98

Verse. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Response. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

Three Collects follow:

(of the Day, for Peace, for Mission)

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS & THANKSGIVINGS - Form III

BCP p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP p.101

Officiant: Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

All: **we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your heart and mind
in the knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ.
And the Blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer ✠ and Sanctifier be with you
and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace love and serve the Lord. 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

The PARISH VESTRY - Will meet next Sunday, 23 August at 11:00. Details on how that will happen will be shared this week.

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.

DAUGHTERS of the KING - Will meet in the Parish Hall Courtyard today at 11:00. They continue sharing the book from the National Church, *Walk in Love*. All women and girls are welcome. As everywhere - masks must be worn, and social distancing will be observed.

Genesis 45: 1-15
Psalm 133
[Romans 11: 1-2*a*, 29-32]
Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

SPIRITUAL IN-SIGHT

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If you've followed my story these past months,
you know I'm into family relations, particularly genealogy.
Today we come to the end of the Joseph story
and even further back with family dynamics of his father Jacob
and his brother Esau
which we read a couple of weeks ago.

But first let me ask theological questions -

- a) Does God have plotted out every step of the future, *or*
- b) Does God just respond to what we humans do,
or, even more intense, Does God even intervene in human life,
Does God even exist.

These are answers to questions that a friend of mine is struggling with.

Mel, a lay-person in Indiana, reached out to me for help.

He has a young cousin who without saying so explicitly,
is struggling with these same questions.

More immediately he is struggling with whether God has any place
in human life and society in general.

These are the things Sue paid lots of money for me to go to seminary.
And these are the things for which I really don't have answers.

It is purely a matter of faith, and one in faith who sees or feels God
at work in their lives.

Like Peter walking on the sea last week,
or our woman in today's Gospel whose great faith
witnesses the healing of her daughter.

But let's look at today's story of Joseph.

You remember Joseph had dreams which seemed to place him
higher than his older brothers.

In rage, they decided to kill him, but his brothers Reuben and Judah
convinced their brothers to sell Joseph into slavery
to a group of travelers heading to Egypt.

Over the years, through several episodes up and down,
Joseph becomes favored by Pharaoh,
and placed as second in command of the country.

He predicts seven years of plenty when they should store-up food,
followed by seven years of drought and famine.

Which is where we are today.

Joseph's brothers come from Canaan to Egypt

to solicit federal surplus food from Pharaoh's government,
ie their brother Joseph, who they don't recognize.

He has pity on them, as we heard today, and provides for their needs,
and the life of their father, Jacob.

Five chapters later, at the end of Genesis, Jacob says to his other sons,
as he lies on his death-bed:

'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?

"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.

Genesis 50:17-21

Or as other translation give it,

“What you intended for evil, God used for good.”

But we've determine that God has no place in society, nor government,
nor does God work within the realm of human lives.

Or does He?

Maybe I should let that question hang in the air,
and allow you to answer it within your own heart.

Jesus said to Thomas the week after Easter,

“Do you believe [only] because you can see God?
What about those who cannot see God, but believe anyway?”

John 20: 29

Spiritual in-sight; *in-sight*, seeing from within;

spiritual insight occurs when we want to, should, act badly.

And instead act righteously, godly, instead,

out of compassion rather than retaliation or self-aggrandizement.

I find myself shocked - and blessed - when by some mercy of God

I actually do the right thing, the righteous thing, the loving thing,
the Godly thing.

+ 5 +

Spiritual insight comes in reflecting

on how God directs the whole thing,

urging me from behind the scenes.

Like Thomas, Joseph sees God at action,

like the wind you can't see, but the effect of it on Creation.

Joseph looked back at his own story

what he did, what had been done to him, and what was possible.

He was able to put a positive spin on the whole thing,

and show not only for his own self-satisfaction, but for others

that *God is at work in our lives, even when we can't see him.*

From the old Communion service we pray:

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and
Jacob - *and Joseph*; God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the
world about us.

And give us Spiritual In-Sight.

AMEN.