

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 16, Year A)

22-23 August 2020

The SERVICE of EVENING and MORNING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING SENTENCE

Stand *Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

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 138***read responsively observing the verse*

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;**

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 **When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.**

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 **They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

**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

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE

The First Song of Isaiah

BCP p.86

Officiant: Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *

All: **call upon him when he draws near.**

Let the wicked forsake their ways *

and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *

nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *

so are my ways higher than your ways,

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *

and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth, *

seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *

it will not return to me empty;

**But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.**

**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 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Here ends the Reading.

MEDITATION

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.**

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

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 Grace, for Mission)

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 and love 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.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION - 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

VESTRY - Will meet today at 11:00 in the Parish Hall and by Zoom.

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.

GRACE CHURCH
PENTECOST 15 - (Proper 16-A, RCL)

Honesdale, PA
22-23 August 2020

Psalm 138
Romans 12: 1-8
Matthew 16: 13-20

WHO AM I?

+ + +

I started out thinking that I wanted to be Van Cliburn
when I heard a recording of him winning the famous
Tschaikovsky piano competition.
So, my Dad bought me an old upright piano for my 6th birthday.
I was in hog heaven!
Then growing up in my mid-years, I trained to be a Church musician.
College, and what? An Archæology major? What is that?!?
And an Episcopalian?
I was born a German Reformed Protestant - from a long line of Erbs!
An Anglo-Catholic?
A priest?
And working as a Hospital and Hospice chaplain.
Who the heck am I?

Last Fall at my Clergy CREDO experience, I said to someone,
“God made me a musician;
But God’s people made me a priest.”

Is that Jesus’ haunting internal question?
Who am I really?
Who do you think I am?
The Church’s One Foundation - the Rock on which the Church is built.
You are the Christ!

An anonymous writer from Memphis Theological Seminary comments:
Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do you say that am?” ... This conjures up
images for me of times in my life when I’ve felt insecure and unsure of myself...
There are moments in our lives when we just need some extra reassurance that we
really are okay. Is that what was happening with Jesus?

She continues

I appreciate considering a time in the life of Jesus when he had to look at
Peter and say, “You think I’m doing this right, don’t you?” Of course, he began with
what all the others had to say about who the “Son of Man” is. But, just as quickly as
they answer, he turns it on them, “But what about you?”

+ 2 +

Is this a test of their own faith or an identity crisis for which Jesus needs some comfort and reassurance? Whatever it is, Peter is quick to answer. Isn't he always? "You are the Messiah, of course!" And, this seems to do the trick. For whatever it was that Jesus was looking, he got it and turns his attention away from himself and back to his followers—Peter, in particular, the rock.

— From *Miriam's Tambourine*
(from Memphis Theological Seminary) in "Identity Crisis?" (Aug. 16, 2011),
quoted in Synthesis, August 2014.

Who do you say that I am?

An important question for each of us.

Who does God think we are;

what order of our life did God have in mind,
when as the Psalmist says,

"You created my inmost parts when they were yet unseen...

I will thank you because I am marvelously made...

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unformed,
all of them were written in your book."

Psalm 139: 13-15

Susanna Metz notes,

"It may be interesting to take Jesus' question...
and turn it around – for us to ask Jesus,
"Who do *you* say that *I* am?"

quoted in Synthesis, August 2014

So, we do know who Jesus is,

he is the Rock of our foundation.

But the important questions for you - and me - today is,

Who does God say you are;

What did God ordain for you;

What has the world called you to be.

I doubt if when I was six, Mom and Dad ever thought
anything would come out of my playing the piano.

And I'm definitely sure they never thought of me as an Archaeologist;

let alone am Episcopal priest,

nor working along medical staff in clinical environs.

Heck, neither did I.

But, well maybe God did and does.

I just wish I could read his book!

Believe, truly believe that you were, you are, wondrously made by God.

Believe, truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior.

And that because of all that Jesus came to be your Savior.

Who is it that Jesus says you are - and can be.

The old Army saying: "Be all that you can be" - *in God's eyes*.