

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

29-30 August 2020

**The SERVICE of EVENING and MORNING PRAYER
with HOLY COMMUNION**

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*

Let us pray:

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.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

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:* Glory to God in the highest,*All:* **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.*Officiant* God be with you.*All* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Romans 12

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Here ends the Reading.

Sit PSALTER **Psalm 26** *read responsively, observing the verse*

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; *

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 **Test me, O Lord, and try me; ***

examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your love is before my eyes; *

I have walked faithfully with you.

4 **I have not sat with the worthless, ***

nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; *

I will not sit down with the wicked.

6 **I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, ***

that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 **Lord, I love the house in which you dwell ***

and the place where your glory abides.

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste

death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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.

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.

silence is held

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which surpasses human understanding keep your hearts and your mind in the knowledge and love of the Lord and his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God Almighty, ☩ Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

After the Dismissal, those who wish to remain to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood are welcome to remain.

+ MASKS - must remain in place throughout the celebration, except when individuals partake of the wafer and wine.

Please remember the protocol of distancing while proceeding to receive the elements, and returning to your seat. Remember that "Slow, Meditative and Prayerful Solemnity" are hallmarks of the Spiritual Life, especially in approaching the Divine presence in the Sacrament.

+ SOCIAL DISTANCING of SIX FEET - will continue to be observed as individuals process to receive the Sacrament.

+ INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS - are provided on two separate tables. Consecrated wafers are provided on the left in paper containers. You may consume the wafer, then dispose the paper container in the basket provided. Then you may proceed to the table on the right which holds individual disposable cups of consecrated wine. If you wish to share in the wine, please take a cup and when consumed, place the empty cup in the basket provided.

Both 'golden' wine and 'purple' grape juice are offered.

+ RETURN - to your seats when finished for the conclusion of the service.

NOTE: Elements for Holy Communion were pre-Consecrated earlier this week following the protocol given us by the Bishop and held in reserve for four days. Gloves and masks were utilized in the preparation of the elements.

All papers and plastic cups will be properly and carefully disposed of following the service, observing with dignity the true Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We offer thanksgiving for the ability of sharing again in the Holy Sacrament.

THE CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

As the Confession and Absolution of Sin, as well as the hearing of the Gospel read and preached, have already been observed, the faithful are prepared for the sharing of the Sacrament. The elements for Holy Communion have previously been consecrated, though a symbolic consecration

of the 'priest's host' and chalice will be observed for the celebration.

Celebrant: God be with you. *People:* **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give our thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

At the Fraction:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
repeat
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Prior to receiving:

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful God,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great
mercies. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your
Table. Yet you always have mercy upon those who call upon you. Grant
us, therefore, gracious God, so to eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
that we may forever dwell in Christ, and Christ in us. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All: **Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.
We thank you for feeding us with this bread.
May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION - The Bishop has made protocols available for the public distribution of Holy Communion for parishes who feel comfortable doing so. Vestry voted on Sunday to offer the Sacrament each week following Evening and Morning Prayer for those who wish to remain and receive. Individual 'cups' for Communion wafers as well as disposable plastic cups of wine will be offered, with the Sacramental elements being consecrated and covered four days in advance.

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 - Would you like to "Zoom" through the Bible? Even if you haven't yet been with us, jump in for an hour at noon on Tuesdays. Join us one day, or each week as your schedule allows. "Bring" your own sandwich. This week we continue Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, looking at Jesus' 'take' on the Commandments. In weeks to come we will explore The Lord's Prayer. A Zoom invitation will be sent to the Parish e-list each week. Simply click on the link on your computer or cell-phone.

The PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

For those who need God's comfort and care: Libby Dimmick, Russ Ganner, Rob O'Connor, Addison, Connor Wenger, Sandy DeGroat, Harold Krieger, George Varites.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Robert & Christopher O'Connor; Zachary Wyckoff.

GRACE CHURCH
Proper 17-A (RCL)

Honesdale, PA
28-29 August 2020

+ 2 +

[Exodus 3: 1-5]
Psalm 26
Romans 12: 9-21
Matthew 16: 21-28

IN THE CROSS - OF OTHERS - I GLORY

+ + +

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds new luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Hymnal 1982 #441/442

“Take up your cross and follow me,”

has a different meaning on this side of the Resurrection.

For some reason, it makes me think of the poppies that grow

in Flander's Field following the destruction of WW-I,

and the many simple white crosses that line

the fields of Normandy

plus the rows and columns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Can your heart draw you to those images,

maybe you are too young or have never visited

that part of Virginia across the Potomac from Washington D.C.

Small white crosses in a cemetery honoring those who have died

in the battles of our country,

down the hill below the monument to the Unknown.

The Unknown.

How many of the unknown have died these past six months.

Their own lives cut short due to no fault of their own.

Take up their cross.

You know - as I've told you - I've been cemetery romping these months -

and something I do with the Youth Group at Hallowe'en time.

Just this week, I was mowing the grass at the Grace Church cemetery.

(Did you know we have our own parish cemetery?)

And I uncovered two grave stones covered over for year by grass.

At All Saints Sunday, we hear the words of St. John's Revelation -

“Who are these clothed in white?”

Have we forgotten those whose graves are saved in our cemetery?

Have we forgotten any who have gone before us?

Do we allow grass and age cover over their memory - their lives?

Today, Jesus calls his disciples to pick up their cross.

This is, of course, miles before he carries his own Cross, falls,
and this stranger on the sidelines is called upon
to pick up his Cross - to pick up Jesus' Cross - not his own.
Simon of Cyrene.

Jesus called his disciples on their way to Jerusalem,
on their way towards Jesus' resurrection,
to pick up their cross and follow.
Weeks before the Crucifixion, Jesus' horrific and untimely death,
the Disciples did not quite comprehend what Jesus meant -
as is proved in Peter's own missing the point of the Messiah.
Though he did get one thing right -
"This must never happen! God forbid!"
But it does happen, it is happening still -
innocent people, young and old alike,
and we have to confess some who are not innocent,
who abandon precautions and throw safety to the wind.
There are thousands upon thousands of those white crosses
standing row upon row -
names, people, humans molded in God's image -
Jesus told his disciples to take up their cross.
Now it is time for his new disciples to take up the cross of others.

Like Simon of Cyrene, who stood on the sidelines of the masses,
and not knowing who this man was,
took up someone else's cross and bore it for him.

As we sit here today, I wonder how many countless, nameless others,
whose crosses will be added to those green expanses
of serene pastures
will likewise be forgotten except by a few loved ones,
and whose graves will be covered over
by the weeds of our neglect and selfish unconcern.
Or will we dig through, uncover their graves and bear their names?

In the Cross of Christ I glory - the cross of one's sacrifice for others.
But in the cross of others is where *I* can be glorified,
and where Christ himself can be glorified by me -
Christ glorified by my following his example
and do all that I can to save others, whatever I am called to do,
to give up my own righteousness, my self-righteousness,
and do all that I can to save others.
May God, may Christ, may even Simon Peter, and Simon Cyrene help me
to do so -
that Christ may be glorified - and maybe even me.