

**The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

24-25 October 2020

**The SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION**ORGAN PRELUDE                      *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”*                      J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS &amp; THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING SENTENCE

*Stand*    *Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People*    **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* 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 &amp; ABSOLUTION of SIN

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*

*(Kneel)* 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.*

GRADUAL

**Psalm 1***read responsively, observing the verse*

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 **Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \***  
**and they meditate on his law day and night.**
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 **It is not so with the wicked; \***  
**they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \***  
**but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

The COLLECT of the DAY

*Officiant* God be with you.  
*All*        **And also with you.**  
Let us pray.  
*silence is held.*

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself.

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The Word of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*“Day by Day”*

M. How

*Stand* GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 22: 34-46*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Christ.**

✚ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

MEDITATION

*Father Erb*

*Stand* The NICENE CREED

*Officiant:* We believe in one God,  
*All:* **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 - Form III

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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 Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop;  
Kevin our Bishop and all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Donald the President; Thomas our Governor, Sarah our Mayor and all  
who govern and hold authority in the nations and communities 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and all 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*

*The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.*

### THE CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

*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.*

*Memorial Acclamation:*

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

The LORD'S PRAYER

*At the Fraction*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. 2x  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

### The SHARING of HOLY COMMUNION

- + MASKS - must remain in place throughout the celebration, except when individuals partake of the wafer and wine.
- + SOCIAL DISTANCING of SIX FEET - Please observe distancing while proceeding to receive the elements. Remember that "Slow, Meditative and Prayerful Solemnity" are hallmarks of the Spiritual Life, especially in approaching the Divine Presence in the Sacrament.
- + INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS - are provided on separate trays. Consecrated wafers are provided in paper containers. Consume the wafer, then dispose the paper container in the basket provided. Then proceed to the right for individual disposable cups of consecrated (golden) wine and (purple) grape juice. Take a cup and when consumed, place the empty cup in the basket provided.
- + RETURN - to your seats by the right-hand aisle when finished.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Almighty and everliving God,

*All:* **we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

*response:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BIBLE STUDY** - “Zooming” through the Bible” has moved to Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. Join us one day, or each week as your schedule allows. This week we continue with the book of Job in the Old Testament. How does a person of faith deal with calamity? A Zoom invitation is sent to the Parish e-list each week.

**VESTRY UPDATES** - With family needs, Todd Stephens has stepped down after a number of years as Sr. Warden, while remaining on Vestry. Dr. Matthew Corso has accepted Todd’s recommendation and my appointment as “Rector’s Warden.” (Peter Mikulak remains as “People’s Warden.”) Neil Petrosky has taken the role of Finance Chair. Also, William Bush has accepted the invitation to fill a vacancy on Vestry. We are grateful to all of these parish members as they help us all work for the good of Christ’s Gospel in this place.

**FORWARD DAY BY DAY** - Devotionals are so important. The new edition of the Church’s daily meditations are available at the entrance of the Church, in regular and large print formats.

**HARVEST HAM DINNER** - Thanks to everyone who helped with the ‘unusual’ annual Harvest Ham Dinner this week. Rough estimate of profits is \$1,500. One of our best proceeds ever.

**TAKE A HIKE** - This Sunday afternoon, Fr. Ed will lead any who wish to join him on a hike around Prompton Lake. Let Fr. Ed know if you’d like to join him on either of these outings. Let us revel in the beauty of God’s Creation.

**ALL SAINTS** - Next Sunday we commemorate All the Saints who have gone before us into God’s Glory. A Book of Remembrance for names you wish us to share is in the back of the Church. Or you can e-mail Fr. Ed with names.

**PLANNING FOR THE END OF LIFE** - Booklets from the Church Pension Group provide helpful information including Advance Directives, Wills, and Funeral Wishes. Copies are available in the back of the Church. Include your loved ones in your planning so they know what you wish and don’t want - like what hymns you want sung at your funeral!

**IN MEMORIA** - The annual Hallowe’en Organ Concert will be transformed into a ‘service’ of memorial for the now 230 Thousand who have died in the US due to Covid-19. Two ‘halves’ of the program (with an ‘intermission’) will be broadcast just like our Virtual Grace services are, for listening at any time. Because of continuing problems with “Mabel” our beloved pipe organ, Fr. Ed will be playing his personal electronic organ from the Rectory den. Hymns and prayers will be offered to commemorate “All the Saints” who have died this year.

## A COLLECT for AN ELECTION

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Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of a President, Justices, officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

*For those who need God’s comfort and care:* Richelle Stephens; Addison; George Varites; Rob O’Connor; Zach Wyckoff.

*For those celebrating birthdays this week:* Emery Jellock; Carla Huss; Taber Starnes; Todd Stephens - *Are we missing anyone?*

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GRACE CHURCH  
Proper 25-A (RCL-2)

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18  
Psalm 1  
Matthew 22:34-46

Honesdale, PA  
24-25 October 2020

+ 2 +

*LET THE SPIRIT OF GOD SPEAK*

+ + +

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears. *Hymn #609, F. H. North*

A hymn from our Hymnal suggested by several liturgical planners  
for today's readings.

“Above the noise of selfish strife,  
we *need to* hear your voice, O God.”

These weeks, we've listened to Judicial Committee interviews,  
Vice-Presidential and Presidential debates,  
which have set many of our brains wheeling,  
we have to be honest.

I can't imagine being any of those candidates!  
But each of us have had to sit through squirming  
maybe less than comfortable job interviews.

Theodore Wardlaw, President and Professor of Homiletics  
at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, reflects on today's Gospel,  
and the authorities, a Pharisaic lawyer,  
questioning Jesus' theology and knowledge of Scripture.  
It made Professor Wardlaw think of his process to ordination,  
something all of us clergy go through -  
interview after interview with the Commission on Ministry.  
I have to be careful here, because one of our parish members  
serves on our Diocesan Commission,  
as does our former assistant Susan Treanor.

Professor Wardlaw recalls that one interviewer asked him  
a trick question, similar to the one the lawyer asked Jesus:  
“Where did Cain and Abel find their wives?”  
For as we know, Adam and Eve had these two sons,  
but no mention of women at this point in Genesis.

Trip-up on Biblical literalism,  
or the liberal view that Genesis is sacred myth.  
or that women weren't important to this part of the story.

Jesus said in such situations:

When they bring you before the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say."

*Luke 12:11-12, // Matt 10:19, Mark 13:11*

I've told of my own final interview after 4 years in "The Process,"  
three of which were in seminary,  
and the Commission being frustrated with me.

They had all known me for many years as a lay musician  
and active leader in Diocesan organizations,  
serving as chair of the Diocesan Music Committee.

They were frustrated because I would not share personal faith -  
I still have problems with that.

So the Deacon in charge of Deacons, a nurse who I served with  
many times at camps and youth conferences,  
Carol tried to play my card.

"Ed, tell us what your favorite hymn is, and why."

I have several, none of them were what came out of my mouth:

"There is a balm in Gilead."

(Not then one of my favorite hymns, but it is now).

Carol looked askance at me.

Now, I was an organist.

I play the music.

I hardly have the first verses memorized,  
let along the second or third.

"Why?" she asked.

"If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and how he died for all."

They were ready to ordain me there and then.

As I've said several times these past weeks, quoting St. Francis,  
"Preach the Gospel.

If necessary, use words."

Maybe I'll have that put on the back of my tombstone,  
while the front reads, "He tried."

Jesus said in such situations:

Do not worry... for the Holy Spirit will teach you at  
that very hour what you ought to say."

I've often wondered what Jesus really knew,  
and how much he winged it -  
wings of the Holy Spirit, that is.

It has always been my advice - do as I preach, not as I do,  
for my German temperament often gets in the way -  
take a deep breath, in-spirate, be in-Spirited,  
and let the Spirit of Holiness do her work.

Hear again the admonishment of God to Moses and the people  
which we read earlier:

Be holy, as I your God am holy. You shall not render  
an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the  
poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge  
your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer  
among your people, and you shall not profit by the  
blood of your neighbor... But you shall love others as  
yourself.

*Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18, adapted*

In all such situations, when someone other than God tempts you,  
allow God's Holy Spirit to speak and work through you.

It worked for Jesus,  
even though it brought him to the Cross.

For even today, Jesus is only days before the arrest, the trial  
and the Crucifixion.

Allowing the Spirit will work here and now,  
as we come to contentious elections  
and continue in political upheaval.

Allow the model of Christ our Savior  
and the workings of God's Spirit speak in and through you,  
today, tomorrow, this Tuesday,  
and through all of your life,  
for the God's salvation of the world.

And remember in your heart and in your actions  
the Greatest of the Commandments  
given to Moses and the people of the Exodus  
and given again by Jesus the Messiah  
who through us would save the world -  
the Greatest Commandment is this:

LOVE,  
shown greatly in the respect for others.

And only in and with and through God  
is that divine Love possible.

+ 7 +

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
*let us* hear your voice, O Son of Man.

AMEN.