

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

14-15 November 2020

The SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & 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 & 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*

(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.***COLLECT of the DAY**

Celebrant: God be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

silence is held

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Sit***PROCLAMATION of the WORD***We hear and respond to God's Word*

The LESSON

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL: PSALM 90: 1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *

from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *

from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *

"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *

and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *

we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; *

**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *

who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days *

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The EPISTLE:

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

There is no need to write you, friends, about the times and occasions when these things will happen. For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape. But you, friends, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief. All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober. It is at night when people sleep;

it is at night when they get drunk. But we belong to the day, and we should be sober. We must wear faith and love as a breastplate, and our hope of salvation as a helmet. God did not choose us to suffer his anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.

The Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Day by Day"

M. How

Stand

The HOLY GOSPEL
Glory to you, O Christ.

Matthew 25: 14-30

[Jesus continued speaking to the disciples:] "The Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. "You gave me five thousand coins, sir," he said. "Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned." "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!"

Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned." "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!"

Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.'

"You bad and lazy servant!' his master said. "You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant - throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth.'

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 CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP p. 372

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:

**We praise you; we bless you; we give thanks to you;
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The LORD'S PRAYER (*traditional, using 'trespasses*)

At the Fraction

**Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer 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

respond: **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.

HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS - are for sale. Gifts for children, women and men at various prices. See Sue Erb for an appointment to view and purchase.

THANKSGIVING “TOGETHER” - this year’s annual free dinner will be take-out only. See Sue Erb to reserve a meal for you and your family. Volunteers to help prepare and package meals are needed.

The PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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

Thanksgiving for the life of Mary Bock.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: - Are we missing anyone?

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GRACE CHURCH
Proper 28-A (RCL)

Honesdale, PA
14-15 November 2020

+ 2 +

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18
Psalm 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30

+ + +

The EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

*There is no need to write you, friends, about the times
and occasions when these things will happen...*

I usually have a story to tell, or a joke somewhere in my homily,
But not today.

Today we must be serious.

For once again, the Church is mandated to be closed
from this coming weekend at least until December 20th.

We do not know at this point what we will be able to do
for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

My heart grieves.

We admit Easter is the center of our faith and we made it through.

But how can we not celebrate
the festivities of Christmas together?

We will find away to praise God, nonetheless.

Instead of a joke or a story today,

I'd like to reflect on St. Paul letter to the Church
which we just read.

*When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then
suddenly destruction will hit them!*

... and people will not escape.

Boy, does that smack right where we are, 2000 years later.

As the world around us turns darker and darker,
how can we await the Winter Solstice
and the turning of the sun?

*But you, my friends, St. Paul writes, are not in the
darkness...*

*We are people who belong to the light, who belong to
the day. We do not hold onto the darkness.*

We, the Church, the faithful in Christ Jesus,
the people of Grace, hold tightly, dearly, to the light of God
in whom we rejoice and shall continue to sing praises.

St. Paul continues to encourage us:

We must wear faith and love as a breastplate, and our hope of salvation as a helmet. God [chose] us... to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes.

And so encourage one another and help one another.

It has made me think of three youth who refused to abandon their faith in God.

For those of you who remember *Veggie Tales*,

I refer to Rack, Shack and Bennie.

For those of you of less theological bent and more biblical,

it's Shadrach, Mesach and Abednego,

those three young friends of the prophet Daniel.

They refused to give up their faith,

and King Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown

into the holocaust ovens of Babylon.

And what do they do?

They sing songs of praise to God.

And an angel appears to save them from being burnt to toast.

That is to be our theme for today, for tomorrow and next week,

and for Christmas 2020.

We at Grace Church *will* sing praise to God.

We will sing Christmas carols, and hear the story of the angels.

It will probably be in your living room,

in your bunny pajamas,

with hot chocolate and sugar cookies

instead of bread and wine.

But we will celebrate,

and sing God's praises.

Just as Rack, Shack, and Bennie,

we, too must teach others how to sing and invoke the angels

around us.

I said to someone this week,

Christmas in 4 BC, when Jesus was born,

was not like anyone would expect.

But Mary and Joseph got through it all,

holding onto their dear child.

And we will do the same.

Let us sing, "Joy to the world!"

AMEN.